THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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30 STATES, UTs SEEK SHORTER CBSE CLASS XII BOARD EXAMS

Except Delhi and Maharashtra, all other states have written to the Centre saying these tests are crucial for students' future

HOLDING EXAMS RISKY: DELHI, MAHARASHTRA

According to Delhi and Maharashtra, allowing gathering at examination centres could cause massive risks of infection to students and teachers and these tests could turn into superspreader events. The other states also asked the Centre to organise shorter, 90-minute exams for all subjects, in which most questions will be objective or short answer types

EXAMINATIONS TO RESULTS IN 45 DAYS

- "Most states are in favour of conducting shorter versions of tests for all subjects and completing the process from examination to results within 45 days," said an official
- The official added if the tests are taken at all CBSE schools, it will raise the number of centres and will reduce crowding

June 1

FINAL DECISION ON CLASS XII BOARD EXAMINATIONS EXPECTED BY THEN

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

EXPRESS CLUSIVE

SIT likely to give Jarkiholi clean chit in sex tape case

MG CHETAN @ Bengaluru

THE Special Investigation Team (SIT), probing the sleaze tape case involving former minister Ramesh Jarkiholi, is most likely to give a clean chit to him. Sources said the SIT will soon submit a 'B' report, which means there is no evidence against him, to the court, putting an end to the case.

Jarkiholi, who was Minister for Water Resources, was made to step down on March 4, after the sleaze tape was released to the media. The issue had created a political storm in the State and an SIT was formed to probe the case.

Police sources said the investigation is over in the case, filed by the woman at the Cubbon Park police station on March 26, accusing Jarkiholi of 'using' her on the pretext of allowing her to shoot a documentary related to his department. The police had registered an FIR against Jarkiholi under Sections 376C (sexual intercourse by a person in authority), 354A (sexual harassment), 504 (provoke breach of the peace), 506 (criminal intimidation), 417 (punishment for cheating) of the IPC, and 67A (transmitting material containing a sexually explicit act, etc., in electronic form) of the Information Technology Act.

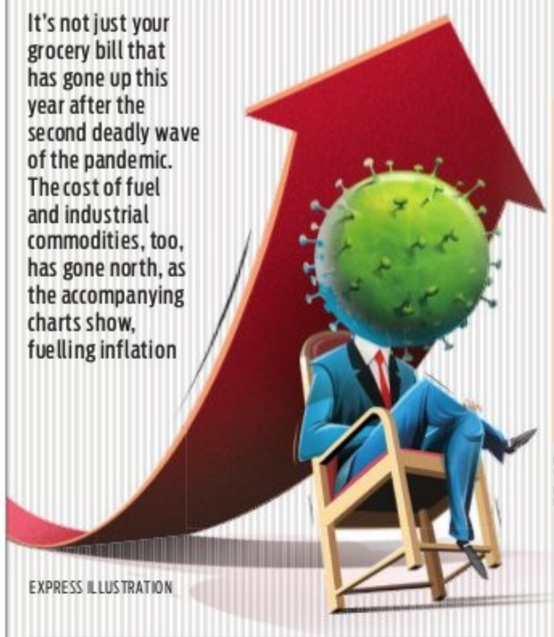
"No evidence is found against the accused (Jarkiholi) in the case. Investigations revealed that it was the woman who contacted him, made several phone calls and spoke to him provocatively. A detailed analysis of the raw footage has shown that there was no force or harassment as alleged by the woman and it's a consensual act," an officer said.

Besides the sleaze tape, phone call records between Jarkiholi and the woman, and other technical aspects, the SIT also recorded statements of several persons connected to the case. The woman was subjected to several rounds of questioning, while Jarkiholi, who had claimed it's a doctored video and was evasive initially, had recently appeared for enquiry, admitting that he is the man seen in the tape and it was a consensual act. "Based on the findings of the probe, it is clear that Jarkiholi was honey trapped by the woman and her accomplices. A closure report (B report) will be submitted to the court soon," the officer added.

While dropping the charges against Jarkiholi, the SIT will intensify the probe into his complaint filed at the Sadashivanagar police station that the entire episode was a conspiracy against him.

Why you are spending more

It's not just your grocery bill that has gone up this year after the second deadly wave of the pandemic. The cost of fuel and industrial commodities, too, has gone north, as the accompanying charts show, fuelling inflation



EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

₹73 average cost of petrol on May 27 last year

PETROL PRICES (₹/lt) as on 28 May 2021

DIESEL PRICES (₹/lt) as on 28 May 2021

₹66 average cost of diesel on May 27 last year

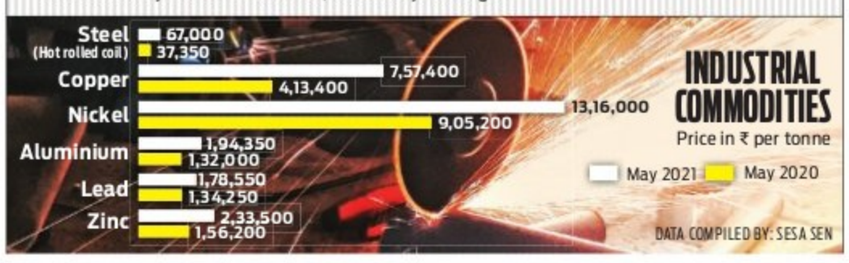
AVERAGE RETAIL PRICE

Food items	Prices (₹) (As on May 27, 2020)	Prices (₹) (As on May 27, 2021)	% change
Sunflower oil (Packed)	110.94	172.57	55.55
Palm oil (Packed)	87.2	133.24	52.8
Soya oil (Packed)	101.78	151.01	48.38
Mustard oil (Packed)	118.28	168.84	42.75
Vanaspati (Packed)	90.52	128.82	42.31
Loose Tea	220.09	282.59	28.4
Groundnut oil (Packed)	147.51	175.64	19.07
Tur/Arhar dal	93.78	107.84	14.99
Gram dal	67.65	76.75	13.45
Onion	20.69	23.46	13.39
Salt (Iodised)	16.08	17.85	11.01
Masoor dal	77	85.44	10.96
Rice	34.2	35.98	5.2
Milk (1 litre)	46.77	49.17	5.13
Urad dal	103.69	108.68	4.81
Sugar	39.7	39.44	0.71
Tomato	18.9	18.25	-3.44
Gur	48.32	46.03	-4.74
Moong dal	111.66	106.12	-4.96
Atta	31.29	29.3	-6.36
Wheat	28.86	26	-9.91
Potato	25.72	19.16	-25.51

All prices in ₹/kg unless mentioned otherwise
Source: Ministry of Consumer Affairs, commodity exchanges

INDUSTRIAL COMMODITIES

Price in ₹ per tonne



DATA COMPILED BY: SESA SEN

EXPRESS READ

TNIE reporter manhandled by cop

Madikeri: While covering a story about residents crowding outside the Madikeri Army Canteen to avail the monthly quota of supplies, TNIE Staff Reporter Prajna G R was manhandled by the Madikeri ASI and some other people on Friday morning. A complaint has been filed with the Madikeri Women police station. **P5**

Twitter yet to follow rules

New Delhi: Google, Facebook and WhatsApp have shared details with the Centre but Twitter is still not following the IT rules, sources said. Twitter has only shared details of a lawyer working in a law firm as their Nodal Contact Person and Grievance Officer, sources added.

No GST relief for vax for now, panel to look into it

Group of Ministers to submit its report on or before June 8, decide on any new rates

ANURADHA SHUKLA @ New Delhi

THERE will be no immediate relief on GST over Covid-19 vaccine and medical supplies as the GST Council on Friday left taxes on these unchanged, though it decided to extend duty exemption on import of a medicine used for treatment of black fungus. The Council formed a Group of Ministers (GoM) to decide if any further exemption is required.

"The GoM will submit its report on or before June 8. Any new rates will now be decided by the GoM," FM Nirmala Sitharaman said. Currently, vaccines attract 5% GST.

"The consensus was that before agreeing to fitment committee, a GoM should study if zero rated tax can be levied or formal tax of 0.1%," said sources.

Chhattisgarh commercial tax minister T S Singhdeo said the argument that Input tax credit can be claimed only on those zero-rated goods which are imported or from SEZ is wrong. "This is limited to IGST not CGST. Section 9, 17 and section 52 of the CGST Act say that there is a provision of zero rated tax," he said.

While there will be no immediate relief on GST over various medical surprises, a number of specified Covid-19 related goods such as medical oxygen, oxygen concentrators and other oxygen storage and transportation equipment, certain diagnostic markers test kits and Covid-19 vaccines, will be exempted from IGST.

"The council has decided to exempt the import of relief items even if they are purchased. If these are meant for donating to the government or on recommendation of the state authority to any relief agents. Also. This exemption has been extended till 31st August 2021," Sitharaman said.

Further, in view of rising Black Fungus cases, the above exemption from IGST has been extended to Amphotericin B.

Release ₹11K cr GST dues to State: Bommai

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

KARNATAKA'S representative in the GST Council and Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Friday requested that pending dues of Rs 11,000 crore in GST compensation to Karnataka be paid immediately.

Bommai, joining the 43rd GST Council meeting headed by Union Finance Minister Nirmala SItharaman via video-conference on Friday, also requested the council to extend GST compensation to States beyond 2022. Under the current agreement between the GST Council and states, compensation paid to state governments to offset losses arising out of implementing GST ends in 2022.

Pointing to the lockdown that was necessitated because of the Covid second wave this year, Karnataka highlighted an inevitable fall in revenues.

CONTINUED ON: P5

RUMMAGING FOR FOOD

Black kites look for scraps in poultry waste discarded by meat stalls on the outskirts of Mysuru on Friday | UDAYSHANKAR S

KARNATAKA	MAY 27	MAY 28
Fresh cases	24,214	22,823
Recoveries	31,459	52,253
Deaths	476	401

NATIONWIDE	MAY 27	MAY 28
Fresh cases	2,11,298	1,86,364
Recoveries	2,83,135	2,59,459
Deaths	3,847	3,660

GROUND REALITY

Death is a costly affair in Covid pandemic

BOSKY KHANNA @ Bengaluru

EVEN as the government is publicising that cremation of the deceased has been made easy and free, the ground reality is different. Government staffers and BBMP volunteers are offering packages – a new form of bribe – to cremate, which ranges from Rs 30,000-Rs 50,000.

Packages are different, depending on the type of cremation, location of the death (home or hospital) and time taken to cremate. If the death is at a hospital, volunteers call and quote Rs 20,000-Rs 30,000 for an ambulance and waiting charges at the cremation site. After that one has to pay Rs 5,000-Rs 10,000 for the cremation and receipt. Then another Rs 400-Rs 1,000 to collect the ashes and Rs 2,000-Rs 4,000 to the jurisdictional tahsildar (if the cremation is outside BBMP limits). Another Rs 4,000-Rs 5,500 needs to be slipped in for the application for the death certificate before it is downloaded from the e-janma portal.

After all this, one has to wait for up to three weeks to get the death certificate in hand.

If the death is at home, charges vary. The situation worsens if the death has happened at a private hospital as the body will not be released and Form-4 not issued till the hospital bills are cleared and the clerk is given his 'payment' for the form, which ranges from Rs 2,000-Rs 10,000.

This is the ordeal most bereaved citizens are forced to go through, and many do not seek help like Vinay B did from nodal officer in-charge of crematoria, Capt Manivannan.

CONTINUED ON: P4

Soon after my mother's death, I got a call from BBMP volunteers who offered me a ₹20k package for an ambulance and waiting period at the cremation site

Vinay B

24x7 helpline number at +91 8495998495 or send a WhatsApp message to the same number

Interim bail to TMC leaders

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kolkata

A five-judge bench of the Calcutta High Court on Friday granted interim bail to three Trinamool MLAs, including two ministers, and a former mayor of Kolkata in the Narada sting operation case. Brushing aside Solicitor General Tushar Mehta's apprehension that the accused are influential and could tamper with evidence, the bench said: ''The investigation started four years ago. Why the CBI did not arrest the accused in past four years? They were influential when the probe was going on."

Meanwhile, it emerged that a sitting judge of the Calcutta high court wrote on May 24 to the all brother judges questioning the way the case has been handled. "Our conduct is unbecoming of the majesty the HC commands. We have been reduced to a mockery....I am requesting all of us to salvage the situation... (for) re-affirming sanctity of our Rules," the judge said. **P8**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi holding a cyclone review meeting with Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik; and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's no-show

Mamata skips PM meet, Centre recalls Chief Secy

MANISH ANAND AND PRANAB MONDAL @ New Delhi/Kolkata

THE optics of the first in-person meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi had lined up with West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee at Kalaikunda, was as turbulent as cyclone Yaas itself, whose destruction they were expected to review, since the latter skipped the scheduled interaction.

Defence minister Rajnath Singh expressed shock at the no-show, saying Mamata had violated the basic tenets of the Constitution's federal system.

The first fallout was the Centre's order to recall Bengal Chief Secretary Alapan Bandyopadhyay, whose tenure was extended for three months just four days ago.

Bengal has been asked to send him to the Department of Personnel and Training's office in Delhi by May 31 morning. Mamata has to relieve him first before he can be sent back.

Mamata later met Modi for 15 minutes and presented a sheaf of papers containing the state government's assessment of the cyclone damage. As for the meeting, the presence of the leader of Opposition Suvendu Adhikari was the trigger for Mamata's anger, as Suvendu had defected from Trinamool to the BJP and defeated her in a tight race in Nandigram.

But the Centre claimed invites to other Opposition leaders like Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury (Cong) too had gone out. But Adhir expressed his inability to make it as he was in Delhi for a meeting.

However, he told this newspaper that he had been informed about the meeting only around 7.30 am on Friday. "It was not possible for me to attend it at such short notice," he said.

The meeting in Odisha was attended by Chief Minister Navin Patnaik and also by Union ministers Dharmenda Pradhan and P C Sarangi, both hailing from the state.

"The PM and the CM are not individuals, but institutions. Both discharge duties, swearing on the Constitution, for the public welfare. Such behaviour towards the prime minister is painful," said Rajnath.

Modi later announced financial assistance of ₹1,000 crore for Odisha, West Bengal and Jharkhand.

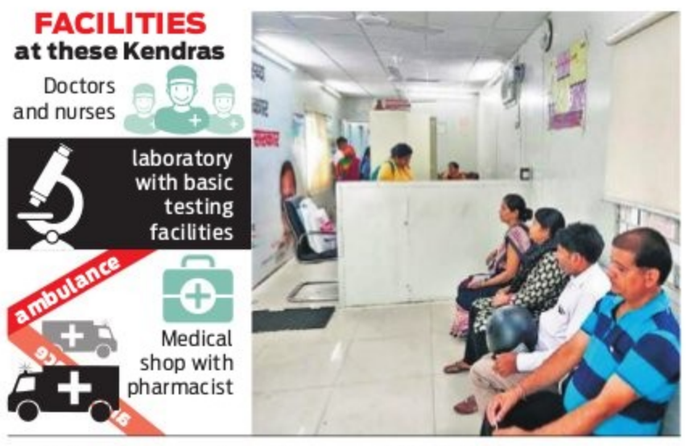
ALMANAC TODAY
Saturday: 29/05/2021 • Year: Plava • Ayana: Uttharayana • Ritu: Vasantha • Masa: Vaishala • Paksha: Krishna • Tithi: Thrutheeya 10.16 am • Nakshatra: Purvashada 10.15 pm • Moon in Makara Rashi • Rahukaala: 09:00 am to 10:30am • Gulikakala: 06:00 am to 07:30 am • Yamaganda: 01:49 pm to 03:26 pm

WEATHER
MIN 21°C | MAX 32°C
FORECAST: Clearing skies

Sunrise 5.52 am | Sunset 6.41 pm | Moonrise 9.58 pm | Moonset 8.33 am

City to get mohalla clinics on lines of Delhi

Janarogya Kshema Kendras will come up in wards that don't have PHCs, cater mainly to urban poor



A mohalla clinic set up by the AAP government in New Delhi | EXPRESS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

TAKING a cue from the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government's mohalla clinics in Delhi, the Karnataka Government is all set to start free health centres in Bengaluru under the National Urban Health Mission (NUHM). To be called Janarogya Kshema Kendras, these centres will mainly cater to the urban poor and will be managed by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

Currently, Bengaluru has 141 primary health centres (PHCs) in 141 wards. There are no PHCs in the remaining 57 wards and the proposed centres will come up there.

Speaking to *TNIE*, Dr Prabhu Gowda, Nodal Officer, NUHM, Karnataka, said each health centre will have a medical officer, a nurse, a lab technician, a pharmacist and a Group D employee.

BBMP has started the recruitment process and the centres are expected to begin operations by second week of June. "BBMP will be the managing authority. These kendras will be set up on the premises of ward offices or any other government building. If there are no government/BBMP buildings in a ward, then the civic body will take a building on rent," Dr Gowda added.

Elaborating on the facilities at the kendras, Dr Gowda said each centre --- which will function between 9 am and 3 pm, will also have a laboratory and a pharmacy. The lab will conduct urine and blood sugar tests and a few other basic tests. "For higher treatment, the patient will be referred to the nearest government hospital," Dr Gowda said.

The kendras can be upgraded into bigger hospitals in the future, he said.

PANDEMIC WOES

Ambulance driver dumps body, arrested

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

IN a shocking incident, an ambulance driver abandoned the body of a man, who died of Covid, on a footpath near Hebbal after demanding more money to shift it to the crematorium.

Based on a complaint, Amruthalli police on Friday arrested 26-year-old Sharath V of Tumakuru, an employee with a private ambulance service.

A senior police officer said that the 52-year-old man, who hails from North India, died at Jayadeva Hospital on Monday night. Sarath had agreed to shift the body to the crematorium for Rs 3,000, but on the way, he demanded Rs 18,000 more from the man's wife. When the woman refused to pay and alerted her brothers, Sarath dumped the body on the footpath and fled.

During interrogation, the accused confessed that he had also fleeced four other families while shifting bodies for cremation.

Case against hospital for not releasing body

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

A CITY-based private hospital is in the dock for allegedly refusing to release the body of a patient who died of Covid till the family clears the bill.

Based on a complaint, the Rajarajeshwari Nagar police have registered a case against the management and staffers of Pathway Hospital, located on Uttarahalli Main Road in Channasandra.

Police said that one Lakshminarayan (42) was admitted to the hospital on May 17, and died on Thursday evening. "Despite a government order that hospitals should give the body to the family even if the bill is not cleared, the hospital staff allegedly demanded that the bill amount of Rs. 3.67 lakh should be cleared or else they will not give the body. One of the brothers of the deceased was allegedly wrongfully restrained by the staff in the hospital. The issue was resolved with the intervention of the police," an officer said.

SHOT FOR METRO
Namma Metro employees get vaccinated for Covid in Bengaluru on Friday. Since the imposition of the lockdown, the city has been seeing a steady decline in positive cases | VINOD KUMAR T

Covaxin 2nd dose priority: BBMP chief

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

AS citizens scamper for Covid shots, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Chief Commissioner Gaurav Gupta on Friday said that priority will be given to those waiting for their second dose of Covaxin at all primary health care centres.

He said that those eligible, but are not able to get their shots can approach BBMP with their details and arrangements will be made to ensure that they get the vaccine on priority. Since January 15, when the vaccination started, over 25 lakh citizens have been vaccinated. All those above 45 years of age can walk into any PHC for the vaccine, he added.

Gupta said that so far, focus was on testing targeted population, but in the coming days, it will be expanded to all parts of the city.

When pointed out that many people have complained about their information being leaked from the Covid portal, Gupta said that an OTP method of getting test report details is being worked upon. All services on the portal have been stopped to check any software anomalies and plug the loopholes, he said.

WORRIED LOT

PU students want more prep time for board exams

PEARL MARIA D'SOUZA
@ Bengaluru

WITH the Karnataka government looking to hold the Pre-University board examinations in July, and even exploring the possibility of holding online exams, PU II students are worried and are hoping for more time. Students have also sought thorough preparatory classes before their board papers.

A section of students said they missed online classes throughout the year as they lacked the facilities. "Not a single exam was held during the year. The lockdown was announced during the preparatory examination, and just two papers were completed. So nobody is sure how we will be graded retrospectively," said a Class 12 PCMB student from an aided college in Ballari.

> The possibility of Multiple Choice Questions online is harrowing as it requires a different technique of preparation, which we are not accustomed to
> Class 12 student

While the department is reported to have mulled the possibility of online examinations, a top official said that no such decision was finalised, nor was such a suggestion made to the centre. "Online exams are not on the table at the moment. There is no discussion in this regard yet," Pre University Education director Snehal R said, adding that a meeting will be held on Monday.

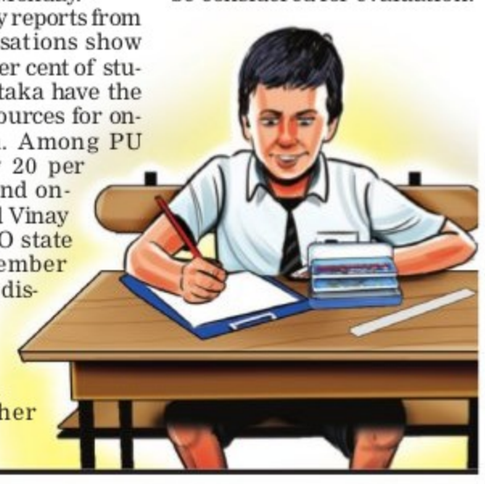
Several survey reports from reputed organisations show that merely 25 per cent of students in Karnataka have the facilities or resources for online education. Among PU students, only 20 per cent could attend online classes, said Vinay Chandra, AIDSO state secretariat member and Bengaluru district treasurer.

"The inequality in the education system has made higher education a dream for a majority of students," he added. "The possibility of MCQs online is harrowing as it requires a different technique of preparation, which we are not accustomed to," said a Class 12 student.

A PCMB student from a government college in Ballari said that just about half of the over 50 students in her class attended online lessons. "However, we had 20 days of classes when pending Physics syllabus was done, but attendance was low," she said, adding that preparatory classes are necessary.

A student from a private unaided PU college in Kalaburagi said online classes went off smoothly during the academic year, and preparatory exams were conducted in March, after about three months of offline classes. "Examinations are necessary, however, due to the second wave, we should wait a bit longer," he added.

Vasudeva Reddy, leader of the Students' Federation of India, told *TNIE* that examinations should be deferred by a few months, till the severity of the pandemic passes, and revision classes be held prior to exams. If that is not feasible, internal test marks should be considered for evaluation.



Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

29th May: The Moon is reaching a tipping point in its monthly cycle, a symbolic indication that we can all begin to speed up. Mind you, no two individuals are faced with exactly the same circumstances, so we'll all be making our own decisions. But people who are chronic over-workers may very soon find that they run out of energy.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
Professional Ariens are favoured today. Or, rather, they may be unable to stop work and relax! What the stars actually indicate is that you'll be in a mind to pursue practical ambitions, but that all other circumstances in your life have to agree. A difficult balancing act, I'm sure, but one well within your powers.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
There's a sense that anything is possible. But, you also know that, if it were, you'd never be allowed to get away with it. And that, I suppose, is a familiar Taurean dilemma. Still, you can safely assume that the next two weeks are a better time to consolidate everything you've achieved so far rather than going off on a new tack.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
There seems to be only so much you can do at the moment without arousing criticism. Today, your bright suggestions are likely to elicit the response 'so why don't you get on and do it, then?' And, at that point, you'll have to figure out the practical details or forget the whole idea.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
Many of you will begin to make the break into a new, more confident phase. The next two weeks find your energy building up to a mild, monthly climax, one which favours all fresh starts and new beginnings. Time to break the habits of a lifetime, perhaps. Well, yes, it is, but then it's not compulsory!

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
You've probably got a lot on your plate today. But that's only a problem if you didn't expect it. If you sense that your tasks and duties are piling up, your worst response is to look the other way. Your best plan is to tackle them as they arise, with all the efficiency and practical commonsense at your disposal.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
Your stars are rather pleasant, I'd say. It's all down to the Moon, really, which is in a position to offer emotional support. Or, perhaps, it doesn't so much offer it as signify the fact that people close to you, particularly family members, and especially younger relations, will be prepared to back you!

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
There's a sense of cosmic crunch today. What I mean by that is that you might not have too much choice about what you do. Or, at least, you might not have too much choice about the circumstances you're obliged to deal with. What you can do, of course, is make your normal, measured response.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
You have a rare skill: bringing together your brightest ideas with a sense of practical, commonsense, down-to-earth skill - added to a fair degree of emotional wisdom. That's what your Moon indicates, at any rate. You'll have to decide which of your plans you put into effect, and that's just the beginning!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
Sagittarians divide into two groups today. There are those who are as high as kites on the one hand and those who are flat out, flaked out and worn out on the other hand. I don't think many of you will be in the middle, but whichever group you fall in to it's time to preserve your achievements and conserve your energy.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
The planets are all changing tracks and signals which were once red, switch to green - and vice versa. That's why you're being presented with a once yearly opportunity to change direction, or even to put the breaks on all together. You may be feeling a little over-emotional today, but then what a great chance that gives you to get in touch with your deeper feelings.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
The questions you face could at first seem to be utterly trivial - such as whether to go out and party or stay in and be quiet. But actually there is a symptom of a more long-range adjustment, one which is likely to colour your affairs over the next month. A busy, worthwhile, productive month is coming for many of you.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
Take heart from today's Venus and Jupiter patterns. These planets are the perfect picture of a poetic, soulful, contented, romantic and idealistic day. There are the usual practical necessities of life to cope with, so my advice is to get all burdensome, routine chores out of the way as early as possible.

THE PHANTOM

HAH! I HAVE YOU, MYSTERY MAN!!
GASP!
ERNESTO?
DE PAUL + MANLEY
WALKER, MY FRIEND!... I GIVE YOU MY SOLEMN OATH! ONE DAY I WILL DISCOVER WHO YOU TRULY ARE!

HI AND LOIS

BEETLE BAILEY

BLONDIE

I AM JULIUS CAESAR DITHERS!!
THE BOSS'S MIDDLE NAME IS CAESAR?
YEP!
I RULE MY OFFICE LIKE AN EMPIRE!
HE SURE GETS RILED UP DURING THE IDES OF MARCH!
WELL, IT'S INTERFERING WITH MY BREAK-TIME!
ET TU, BUMSTEAD!?
TELL ME 'BOUT IT!

LOCKHORNS

"DON'T BLAME ME ... IT'S ALL THOSE TARGETED ADS I'VE BEEN GETTING."

DENNIS THE MENACE

"MY MOM'S PRETTIER THAN THAT... BUT IT'S A PRETTY GOOD PICTURE OF MY DAD."

SU DO KU

Medium: Test your number crunching skill with our unique puzzle

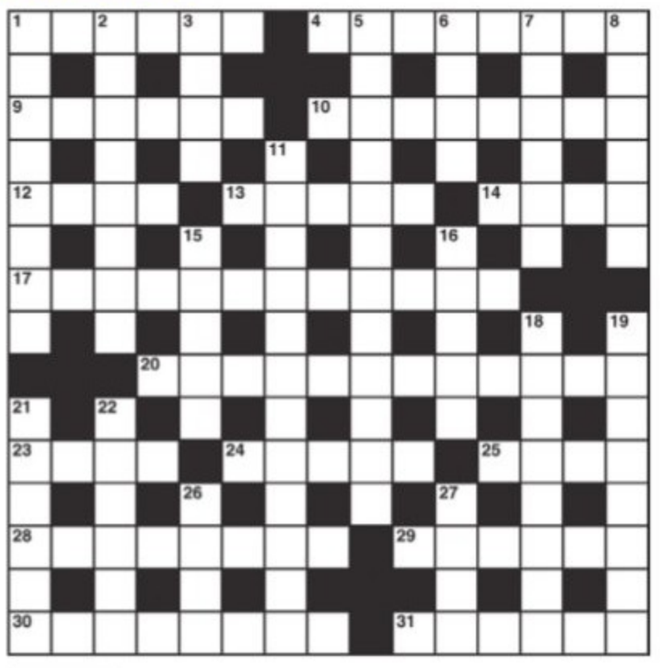
Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

5					9	2	1	6
			5					
	9		1	8				
9				1	5	8		
	3	5				6	4	
		8	3	2				7
				5	4		6	
					7			
4	6	2	8					3

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

9	6	3	8	1	4	7	5	2
5	4	7	9	3	2	1	6	8
8	1	2	5	7	6	3	9	4
7	9	4	3	6	8	5	2	1
1	2	8	7	5	9	4	3	6
6	3	5	4	2	1	9	8	7
4	7	9	2	8	5	6	1	3
3	8	6	1	9	7	2	4	5
2	5	1	6	4	3	8	7	9

CROSS WORD



ACROSS
1 Big shock absorber (6)
4 Tell tale weapon (8)
9 Most unusual form of arrest (6)
10 Weary far-out traveller (8)
12 They may be eaten slowly or bolted (4)
13 Pass through another station (5)
14 People in the running (4)
17 It's a fault taking the path of less resistance (5,7)
20 If a soldier is, his mail must be (6,6)
23 A pain in the trachea (4)
24 Pale and pass out (5)
25 It sounds like heaven in the Inner Hebrides (4)
28 Literary supplement? (8)
29 Kind of colour worn by a man (6)
30 Poor ending it might make (8)
31 For him to laze is unusual (6)

DOWN
1 She's entitled to prohibit one vessel (8)
2 A running battle? (8)
3 Simple? Yes, with a new form (4)
5 One car addict will be upset by it (4,8)
6 Consequently feet become tender (4)
7 Wine container under the counter (6)
8 The buck stops here (6)
11 A record entry? (12)
15 Rose paid for the drinks (5)
16 A place where waiters are forgotten? (5)
18 Drink to the end of the rooster? (8)
19 Supporter likely to maintain contact (8)
21 I'm unfortunately upset by highly spiced foreign food (6)
22 Was in form when phased out (6)
26 Neat way to reverse arms (4)
27 Regrets expressed for a trick (4)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Spent, 4 Letting, 8 Tot, 9 Ambulance, 10 Utensil, 11 Ashen, 13 Avouch, 15 Alight, 18 Loser, 19 Earshot, 21 Collapsed, 23 Ear, 24 Estonia, 25 Eased.

Down: 1 Satsuma, 2 Entre nous, 3 Tears, 4 Labels, 5 Tell all, 6 Ian, 7 Green, 12 High heels, 14 Certain, 16 Tutored, 17 Persia, 18 Lucre, 20 Ridge, 22 Lot.

JUMBLE By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

UAANF

LPIEM

DIMMUE

TAHLOE

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Our credit score should go up after this month's payments.
I bet we can get our monthly interest rates lowered.
BY NOT BEING LATE WITH PAYMENTS, YOUR CREDIT SCORE WILL GO UP ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon

ANSWERS TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S: **Jumbles:** LADLE NINJA HAZARD BOTTOM
ANSWER: She'd been making mittens for more than 60 years and was – AN OLD HAND AT IT

Service charge capped at Rs 200 in pvt hospitals

The State Government has revised the service charge in private hospitals and capped it at Rs 200. If they charge more than the capped fee, action will be taken against them. The charge for registration for vaccination was earlier capped at Rs 100, but private hospitals approached the government to increase it to Rs 300, citing expenditure on cold chain and logistics

CM to visit dists every fortnight

Yediyurappa also pushes for 'doctors at doorstep' in rural areas to fight pandemic

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

AT a time when murmurs of a leadership change in the next few months are gaining strength, and party colleagues are launching 'no-holds-barred' attacks against him, Chief Minister **BS Yediyurappa** has decided to up his game with 'district visits'.

Yediyurappa, who visited Tumakuru on Friday, said he would make fortnightly visits to various districts a regular affair to review the Covid-19 situation. "I am in Tumakuru today and spoke to our officials, ministers and MLAs about Covid management and arrangements. I will visit one district every 15 days to monitor the situation," Yediyurappa told the media.

The move is being seen as Yediyurappa's message to his detractors that despite attempts to unseat him, he will continue working unaffected, and perhaps adopt a more 'hands-on' approach. The visits to various districts are also likely to bridge the gap between miffed MLAs and Yediyurappa, and connect directly with the people.

Later on Friday evening, Yediyurappa held a review meeting over the Covid situation at his official residence in Bengaluru, where he pushed for doctors to visit rural areas. Due to lockdown restrictions, many people in rural areas, especially remote localities, are finding it difficult to visit their nearest healthcare centres.

"Cities are seeing a fall in the number of cases, but villages continue to see a rise. In order to curb the spread of infection, officials should insist on the 'doctors at doorstep' programme, where health experts and professionals travel to villages and provide treatment at people's doorsteps," Yediyurappa was quoted as telling officials.

Kateel, other leaders stand by BSY, son

GTD bats for CM

Mysuru: Disgruntled JDS MLA G T Devegowda strongly opposed any move to unseat CM B S Yediyurappa, saying that a few are attempting to pull down the government when people are battling for their lives. He said it is unfortunate that political activities had started against Yediyurappa's leadership. "He is doing well and we want him to be allowed to perform rather than dislodge him," said Devegowda.

'Yogeeshwara can quit'

Shivamogga: "I don't say everything is right in the state BJP. There are minor confusions," senior party leader K S Eshwarappa said, on the issue of change of leadership. "Minister Yogeeshwara in responsible for this and if he is dissatisfied, let him resign and walk out. But he should not create confusion. Collectively, we (BJP) will resolve any issues within the party," he said.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister BS Yediyurappa, facing a challenge from cabinet minister CP Yogeeshwara, received strong support from state BJP president Nalin Kumar Kateel, who said, "I am 100 per cent sure that CM Yediyurappa's son BY Vijayendra is not interfering in the affairs of the government." Yogeeshwara has indirectly claimed that Vijayendra was interfering in the affairs of the state.

He refuted Yogeeshwara's allegation that this is a coalition government of three parties. "We are not in an understanding with any party," he said, adding that he would seek an explanation from the MLC.

Others too supported Vijayendra. Primary and Secondary Education Minister Suresh Kumar said the government has only one agenda: to control Covid and save people. He said that all other issues can wait and are not important.

BJP MLA from Holalkere M Chandrappa claimed that Yogeeshwara had "become unstable" after the party made him an MLC and gave him a ministry.

MLA G T Devegowda flags off an ambulance which he donated in Mysuru on Friday

Minister S T Somashekar, himself a migrant to the BJP from the Congress, said, "Only a person who has changed three parties will speak about this government being a coalition of three parties. There is no interference by Vijayendra."

Vijayendra also spoke to the media. "The CM has a career spanning 40 years, marked by struggle. He has put in personal efforts as MLA, opposition leader, DyCM and CM, and has served people. He does not need the efforts of Vijayendra or anyone in the family," he said.

Sources in the Yogeeshwara camp said the MLC is determined to get the central leadership to hold a legislature party meeting, and is keenly pursuing the signature campaign.

Meanwhile in Hubballi, opposition leader Siddaramaiah said, "BJP is still searching, looks like there is no one capable other than Yediyurappa."

Kateel calls on CT Ravi

Meanwhile, Kateel paid a surprise visit to the residence of BJP National General Secretary CT Ravi in Chikkamagaluru, and had lunch with him.

SCATHING ATTACK

CONGRESS TERMS GOVT RELIEF PACKAGE 'BOGUS'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

IN a joint attack on the BJP government over the Covid-19 economic relief package announced earlier this month, Congress leaders termed it "bogus" and demanded that Rs 10,000 be deposited in the bank accounts of all poor citizens in the state. Presenting numbers to support their claim that the previous package announced by the government had failed to benefit those who lost their livelihoods and jobs, the Congress leaders demanded a more inclusive and effective assistance package.

"The government had announced a package last year too, but it has not been implemented effectively. Of the Rs 137 crore announced for horticulture farmers, only Rs 50 crore has been paid so far. Similarly, Rs 31 crore was announced for floriculture farmers but only Rs 15 crore has been deposited. One-time assistance of Rs 5,000 was announced for 2.3 lakh persons from the Savita Samaj, but only 55,466 persons have got it. About 7.45 lakh auto and cab drivers were to get Rs 5,000 but only 1.17 lakh received it. Of the 16.48 lakh construction workers who were supposed to receive Rs 5,000, only five lakh have. Aid of Rs 2,000 was announced for 1.25 lakh weavers, but only 45,756 have received it," charged MLA Krisha Byregowda.

Legislators Priyank Kharge and Rizwan Arshad pointed out to the packages announced by other States like Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala, and insisted that Karnataka fell woefully short. They urged the government to put money in poor citizens' hands immediately instead of announcing complicated packages that often leave beneficiaries entangled in red tape.

"BJP leaders offer bizarre suggestions like standing in the Sun for 15 minutes to protect oneself from Corona. Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan stands with Baba Ramdev and endorses Coronil, only for Ramdev to abuse allopathic doctors. If standing in the Sun is enough, then what is the need for big hospitals? The CM himself went to Manipal Hospital to get treated. Why do BJP leaders go to hospitals instead of eating garlic if they test positive? All of this quackery is reserved for the gullible, poor citizens," Priyank Kharge taunted.

The leaders insisted that this year too, the package will not cover all sections and crores of people who have lost their jobs and source of livelihood. "

There are 3.5 lakh eligible farmers in the state, but relief has been announced for barely 89,000 farmers," Byregowda added.

Indian Youth Congress national president B V Srinivas distributes ration kits to residents in Shivamogga on Friday | SHIMOGA NANDAN

'Waive GST on Covid-19 drugs'

ENS @Shivamogga

INDIAN Youth Congress national president B V Srinivas on Friday urged the Centre to waive GST on all drugs meant for treating Covid-19 patients. He questioned the need for levying GST on the drugs, at a time when people are short of money. Srinivas told the media that India is one of the biggest manufacturers of Covid vaccines. "Unfortunately, vaccines are unavailable for our people. The vaccines produced here are being exported to other countries. The government is negligent towards the health of the people," he said.

He said the second wave of the pandemic has shaken the country badly. "The third wave is beginning to spread. Yet, the government is not serious about it," he said.

Srinivas distributed food kits, isolation kits and immunity boosters to people, and flagged off an ambulance service called 'Congress Cares' on the occasion.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MONIKA VASHISHTA, Spouse of Anil Kumar resident of SMQ No. 186/1, Command Hospital Air Force, Bangalore-560007, have changed my name from **MONIKA VASHISHTA** to **MONIKA VASHISHT** vide affidavit Dated 28/05/2021 sworn before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, Bangalore.

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Dt. : 25.05.2021

The undersigned on behalf of the President of India, invites Open e-tenders for the following works.

Sl. No.	Description of Work	Approx. Value (Rs.)
1	Execution of signaling/ Telecom works to facilitate Engg sanctioned works (CTR, TRR & TFR) over ADSTE/II/SBC's jurisdiction of Bengaluru Division.	27,22,915.70

Last Date of submission of bid: **16.06.2021 up to 15:00 hrs.**

For details log on to www.ireps.gov.in

Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer Bengaluru Division

No. PUB/20/AAAL/PRB/SBC/2021-22

KITTUR RANI CHANNAMMA RESIDENTIAL SAINIK SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, KITTUR-591 115 DT: BELAGAVI

Ph No: 08288-234601/286237 Fax: 08288-287299

E-mail: sainikschoolkittur@gmail.com Website: www.kittursainikschool.org

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ADMISSION NOTICE: 2021-22 (BA. LLB 5 Yrs)

1. Online applications are invited for Computer based Law Entrance Test (LET) to be conducted at 50 Centers all over India for 64 seats (60 for wards of Army Personnel & 04 for All India Civil Category).

(a) Opening of portal for online Application-cum-Admission Form - 03 Jun 2021
(b) Last Date of submission of Application-cum-Admission Form alongwith fee of Rs. 3000/- - **24 Jun 2021**
(c) Last date with additional late fee of Rs.1000/- - 28 Jun 2021
(d) Downloading of Admit Card - 20 Jul to 31 Jul 2021
(e) Date and time of Entrance Test (2 P.M. to 4 P.M.) - **31 Jul 2021**
(f) Online declaration of Result - 12 Aug 2021
(g) Online counseling for Army & All India Civil Category - To be notified later

2. **Punjab Residents Civil Category :** 16 seats will be filled by Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar through online counseling.

Help Line No (TCS) for technical query : 022-61306281

For details visit **www.ail.ac.in** Email : ailmohalilet2021@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

(For having Lost Original Document)

To the General Public at large hereby notified that, Our client, Sri.VEERAPPA.B.H. S/o. Late. Hanumanthappa, Residing at No.19/6, Ramaiah Lane, Church Street, Murugeshpalya, Bangalore-560017 had Lost the original Absolute Sale Deed dated 21/12/2016 bearing document No.HSK-1-07363-2016-17 in Book No.1, Stored in CD No.HSKD591 duly registered on 21/12/2016 before the Sub-registrar at Hoskote, Bangalore Rural District executed by Smt.Narayanamma and Others in our Client name.

Our client had lost the above mentioned document on 17/05/2021 at Chowdeswari Temple road Marathalli, Bangalore in respect of the same our client had lodged the Police complaint in NCR No.268/2021 before the Marathahalli Police Bangalore. The sale deed being in respect of the immovable property Measuring 1¼ guntas of land in survey No.50/4 out of the total area of 1 acre 13½ guntas situated at Ajagondanahalli Village, Anugondanahalli Hobli, Hoskote Taluk. Bounded on the East by: Remaining portion of Survey No.50/4. West by: Road, North by: Remaining portion of Survey No.50/4, and South by: Remaining portion of Survey No.50/4.

The persons claiming any rights and interest title over the above mentioned property may kindly reply to us with objections, claims, with documentary evidence to the undersigned within 7 days from this Publication or otherwise it will be considered as no claims to the above mentioned property.

Mr. K. M. Anil Kumar, Advocate, ANIL KUMAR & ASSOCIATES, No.1, 2nd Floor, SRS Complex, Marathahalli, Bangalore-37. Mobile No.9845075493.

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INDULGE

Every Friday with THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

NOTICE OF EXTENSION OF BIDS

SELCO Solar Light Pvt. Ltd.

Extension of bidding date for the Supply, along with warranty, of solar equipments and/or medical appliances for primary health centers in the districts of North Karnataka

SELCO had invited bids on 05.05.2021 for the Tender on **"SUPPLY OF SOLAR EQUIPMENTS AND/OR MEDICAL APPLIANCES FOR PRIMARY HEALTH CENTERS IN THE DISTRICTS NORTH KARNATAKA"** from Bidders who are a Registered Company with manufacturing or supplying facility in India. The last date for applying for the bid was 20-05-2021. However, we have received feedback from some of the bidders, who sent the bids through courier, that the bids were returned back since our office was closed due to the lockdown in Bangalore. In order to ensure that those who missed the opportunity to quote will still be able to do so, the **last date for application has been extended to 11-06-2021.** The bidders who have already quoted, need not quote again as your quotations already received will be considered at the time of bid opening.

The Tender Papers & Specifications may be downloaded from Web sitehttps://selco-india.com/communication/->Tender (For view and download). In view of the Covid-19 situation, Offer / Bid is required to be **submitted by email mode only** to procurement@selco-india.comby 5pm on or before 11/06/2021. Hard copies are not required and will not be considered.

Procurement Officer – SELCO Solar Light Pvt Ltd

#690 Ground Floor, 15th Cross, Jewan Griha Colony, 2nd Phase, J P Nagar, Bengaluru, Kanataka 560078

email: procurement@selco-india.com

यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India

Yelahanka Branch (e- AB), GVR Castle, building No. 98, Bagalur Road, IAF Post, Yelahanka Bangalore.

Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Property

E-Auction Sale Notice for 15 days Sale of immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **Union Bank of India** (secured Creditor) will be sold on **" As is where is", " As is what is " and " whatever there is"** on the date mentioned below, for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to **Union bank of India** from the below mentioned Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit are also mentioned hereunder:

Branch Name and Address: Contact Number: **Union Bank of India, Yelahanka branch (e- AB), GVR Castle, building No. 98, Bagalur Road, IAF Post, Yelahanka, Bangalore.**

(1) Name of the Borrower & Name of the Guarantor: **(1) Struct rehab India private Limited,** No 13, 3rd Floor,6th Main, Balaji Layout, Kodigehalli Main Road, TATA Nagar Circle, Bangalore- 560094 **(2) Mr. Manickavelu Perumal,** No. 540, 1st Main Road, 14th Cross, Motappa Layout, Devinagar, Bangalore-560094 **(3) Mrs. Suseela Manickavelu,** No. 540, 1st Main Road, 14th Cross, Motappa Layout, Devinagar, Bangalore-560094.

Amount due: : Rs.93,00,143.92 with further cost, interest accrued thereon.

The Property Details: All that piece and parcel of the property consisting of Building- Office admeasuring approximately1410 Sq.Ft. situated at all that piece and parcel of the commercial property bearing site No. 13, old Khatha No. 51/5/51/6/13, presently BBMP Khatha No. 106/51/5/51/6/13, situated at ward no. 8, Kodigehalli, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk and bounded by On the North : Road, On the South : Private property, On the East : Site No 14 On the West : Site No 12

Date and time of E-Auction: (with 10 min unlimited auto extensions) E-auction website-www.mstcecommerce.com 18-06-2021 from 11 A.M to 2P.M.
Reserve price: Rs. 1,70,00,000/-
Earnest Money to be Deposited: Rs.17,00,000

For Detailed terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the link provided in **(1) https://www.ibapi.in (2) www.unionbankofindia.co.in**
The intending purchaser require to register through : **https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp**
The online E-auction will be held through website: **sarfaesi@unionbankofindia.com.**

Place: Bengaluru **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Date: 27.05.2021 **Union Bank of India,**

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TRACKING COVID-19

SPEED AND RISE OF COVID-19 CASES IN KARNATAKA

22,823 CASES REPORTED TODAY

24,214 CASES REPORTED YESTERDAY

TALLY STANDS AT

TODAY	25,46,821
YESTERDAY	25,23,998

DEATHS

TODAY	YESTERDAY
401	476

DISCHARGES

TODAY	YESTERDAY
52,253	31,459

ACTIVE CASES

TODAY	YESTERDAY
3,72,373	4,02,203

POSITIVITY RATE

TODAY	8.68%
YESTERDAY	8.64%

The day positivity rate — 16.42% today — is calculated as the number of patients testing positive out of 100 tests conducted only in a day.

MORTALITY RATE

TODAY	1.09%
YESTERDAY	1.08%

RECOVERY RATE

TODAY	84.28%
YESTERDAY	82.97%

The first Covid-19 case in Karnataka was reported on March 8, 2020. Since then until May 28, 2021, a total of 25,46,821 cases have been reported in 1 year and 78 days...

1,30,16,720 Total doses administered in state

VACCINATION DRIVE STATUS

Number of people completing vaccination	26,91,291
Health care workers 1st dose	7,15,256
Health care workers 2nd dose	4,69,586
Frontline workers 1st dose	5,93,378
Frontline workers 2nd dose	2,07,175
Age 18-45 1st dose	7,07,691
Above 45 1st dose	83,09,104
Above 45 2nd dose	20,14,530

DISTRICT-WISE COVID CASES LAST 24 HOURS

5,736 BENGALURU URBAN	Bagalakot: 252	Chamarajanagar: 318	Dakshina Kannada: 799	Hassan: 1,170	Kolar: 656	Raichuru: 365	Udupi: 766
514 BENGALURU RURAL	Ballari: 782	Chikkballapur: 337	Davanagere: 522	Haveri: 137	Koppal: 339	Ramanagara: 339	Uttara Kannada: 692
	Belagavi: 1,319	Chikkamagaluru: 559	Dharwad: 700	Kalaburagi: 91	Mandya: 825	Shivamogga: 1,135	Vijayapura: 183
	Bidar: 64	Chitradurga: 489	Gadag: 302	Kodagu: 245	Mysuru: 1,677	Tumakuru: 1,326	Yadgir: 184

Have own tools to predict future waves: Experts

They feel it is vital to prevent, detect a large outbreak from happening at the local level

CHETANA BELAGERE @ Bengaluru

WHILE there has been enough scientific evidence that the country will inevitably face further waves of the coronavirus pandemic, experts say that India should have its own planning tool like the one used by the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), USA.

"Every country needs to step up pandemic preparedness to detect and contain the transmission in the early stages proactively. The CDC's planning tools are impressive. India can have similar tools that can include several scenarios, surge tools and forecasts to prepare for the future waves," said Dr Giridhara R Babu, renowned epidemiologist and member of Covid-19 Technical Advisory Committee.

"Models developed using the data available can help evaluate the potential effects of different community mitigation strategies. The planning scenarios may also be useful for hospitals in assessing resource needs," states the publicly available document by CDC on the planning scenarios.

However, India needs to come up with its own scenarios, explains Dr Babu. An ideal scenario is to prevent and detect a large outbreak from happening at the local level, without waiting for the intervention from the state or central level in any block in any part of the country, he feels. "To have such a robust civil system, it is essential to hire front line workers and strengthen the surveillance platform systems for enhancing the syndromic approach in the country. Having different scenarios will help understand the range of diverse possibilities and offer flexibility to scale up the preparedness for mounting prompt and appropriate responses," he said.

Meanwhile, Prof Sashikumar Ganesan and Prof Deepak Subramani from the Department of CDS at IISc have come up with similar scenarios to predict the surge, the preparedness the states have to undertake and various parameters one could look into even in terms of prevention.

Prof Sashikumar said, "With three scenarios — no lockdown, 50 per cent and 100 per cent effectiveness of the lockdown — using parameters as confirmed cases, active cases, recoveries and deceased, it has been explained in detail with projections for the state government to prepare for future waves." According to him, the prediction of active cases will help the state prepare for the healthcare in terms of manpower and infrastructure to be stepped up, while confirmed cases will help BBMP and district officials to know the worst scenarios and how they should be containing the further surge. The recoveries will help the government for post-Covid care and the data on the deceased will definitely help in assessing the cause of death and how to prevent it.He explained that the state should not stop testing and the testing levels will have to be uniformly and consistently high to be able to detect clusters at the earliest. Genome sequencing is another important tool to predict future waves.

Rather than depending on one or two models, the government should use some ensemble approach and synthesise the evidence from all the projections to develop different scenarios, experts said.

> The CDC's planning tools are impressive. India can have similar tools that can include several scenarios, surge tools and forecasts
>
> Dr Giridhara R Babu, member, Covid-19 Technical Advisory Committee

Active cases fall below 4L-mark

With high recoveries, the State's active Covid-19 tally dropped below the 4 lakh-mark (3,72,373) on Friday. The State also saw 52,253 discharges and 22,823 fresh cases on Friday, taking the total tally since the beginning of the pandemic last year to 25,46,821. Karnataka's active case count have been consistently falling since May 17. While, it was 6,03,639 on May 17, it decreased to a little over 5 lakh cases on May 21 (5,14,238). And by May 27, it further dropped to 4,02,203 active cases.

B'luru hosps to start 'antibody cocktail' therapy

RANJANI MADHAVAN @ Bengaluru

WITH the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) recently approving the use of monoclonal antibody therapy (antibody cocktail) for Covid-19 patients who are in home isolation and have mild to moderate symptoms, hospitals in Bengaluru are gearing up for its launch here. The therapy has so far been administered to one patient in Delhi.

Manipal Hospitals will start the therapy, which is a combination of two drugs --- Casirivimab and Imdevimab (powder reconstituted into solution) — 10 ml of each drug will be premixed and will be available in vial form. Also, the procedure does not require the patient to get admitted.

"The therapy, which is proven to be more effective than HCQ, Favipiravir and Ivermectin, produces resistance against SARS-COV-2 by acting against the spike protein and not allowing the virus to enter the lungs. It also prevents mutated virus from latching on to the body. We are developing a protocol so that it is not misused," said Dr Satyanarayana Mysore, HoD and Consultant, Pulmonology, Lung Transplant Physician, Manipal Hospitals.

Sakra World Hospital is also in the process of procuring the drugs and they expect its arrival in a few days. "The therapy was granted emergency use authorisation in India a couple of days ago. Named REGN-COV2, the drug is projected to reduce hospitalisation by 70%. Case selection is important and judicious use should be assured," said Dr Sachin Kumar, senior consultant, Pulmonology and Critical Care Medicine, Sakra World Hospital

"The drug can be used in very specific cases, especially in people at a high risk of progression to severe disease. This could be a potential game changer...but is expensive. Other combinations exist, but at present, are unavailable in India," said Dr Prakash Doraiswamy, senior consultant, Critical Care and Anaesthesiology, Aster CMI Hospital.

"As long as we find the right patients, there is no reason why we cannot use it. However, each dose costs Rs 1.2 lakh. There is no data to support that it can be used in patients who are critical and on ventilators. There have been side effects such as nausea and a severe allergic reaction called Anaphylaxis during treatment," Dr Doraiswamy added.

> The therapy was granted emergency use authorisation in India a couple of days ago. Named REGN-COV2, the drug is projected to reduce hospitalisation by 70 per cent
>
> Dr Sachin Kumar, senior consultant, Sakra World Hospital

PANIC BUYING

People throng the central business district in Mysuru on Friday ahead of the stricter lockdown kicking in from Saturday | UDAYSHANKARS

Govt contract staffers complain to PM over lack of incentives

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

Members of the Karnataka State Health Contractual and Outsourced Employees' Association (KSHCOEA), who are at the forefront of battle against Covid, have raised issues of lack of Covid incentives, medical expense reimbursements, job security and more.

The State Government recently agreed to sanction Covid-risk incentives to clinical cadres, but excluded all contractual and outsourced employees, KSHCOEA pointed out.

In a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, they said that like regular health department staff, they too work at Covid Care, district health and vaccination centres, but the State has announced Covid medical expenses reimbursement only to regular health department staff.

Also, the State's special Covid incentives do not include Group D staff, counsellors and ambulance drivers. The association members said that as they do not have job security because they are contractual staff, they too should be employed till they are 60 years old.

They sought a 25 per cent hike in salaries like the regular government health staff.

Aged couple pushed to the streets by apartment residents in Belagavi

TUSHAR A MAJUKAR @ Belagavi

An aged couple was pushed to the streets and left to fend for themselves by residents of an apartment complex here, with neither shelter nor food. Finally, they were rescued by some social workers and hospitalised.

Mahadev Devan (70) and his wife Shanta (65) were living in a quarters at the apartment complex in Hindwadi, where he was working as a watchman. Sources said that a few days ago, Devan was found to have become weak and both he and his wife had developed a cough. This created panic among the residents of the apartment who insisted the couple vacate immediately. As the couple had no place to stay, they were on the streets without food and water.

Mahadev Devan and Shanta being taken to hospital in an ambulance, in Belagavi on Friday

A woman residing near the apartment, who noticed their plight, informed social worker Kiran Nippanikar who posted about their pitiable state on a social media group. Immediately, social worker Surendra Angolkar, Anil Ashtekar and others rushed to the spot along with an ambulance and picked up the couple. They offered food and clothes to the couple and tried to get them admitted at the district hospital. But the hospital authorities allegedly refused due to lack of beds.

This was posted on social media again and the issue was raised with the higher-ups at the hospital. The couple was finally admitted in the hospital and are undergoing treatment. Doctors said that they had turned weak due to starvation. Angolkar said that doctors clarified that the couple has no symptoms of Covid-19 and they are being treated in the general ward. They will soon be shifted to the shelter home of the Belagavi City Corporation at Vadgaon here.

'Show-cause notice served'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Vinay said, "Soon after my mother's death, I got a call from BBMP volunteers who offered me a Rs 20,000 package for an ambulance and waiting period at the cremation site. Then at Tavarekere crematorium, they demanded Rs 5,500 as donation and later Rs 400 to collect the ashes. At BBMP RR Nagar office, Naveen, the sub- registrar, made me run from taluk office and cremation site to BBMP office for a certificate (around 160 km). He also demanded a bribe. I approached health officer Dr Komala for help, but there was no response. I paid for cremation and ashes, but refused to pay the bribe and requested Capt Manivannan for help on May 27," he said.

Manivannan wrote to RR Nagar BBMP Joint Commissioner Nagaraj, seeking immediate action.

Nagaraj said a show-cause notice has been served on Naveen. An inquiry found that there was miscommunication between the tahsildar, BBMP office and the citizen, but charges of bribery are being investigated.

Bengaluru Urban Deputy Commissioner J Manjunath said that no one should pay anything. "There are boards and helpline numbers to register a complaint. The matter is shameful and stern action will be taken," he said.

SILVER LINING

Varsity to give free seats to kids of Covid victims

KARTHIK K K @ Mysuru

LENDING a hand of support amidst the raging pandemic, the century-old University of Mysore (UoM) has decided to offer free seats for students who have lost an earning member in the family to Covid-19.

With an intent to ensure that every student gets access to higher education and do not discontinue their studies owing to the death of the sole breadwinner of the family, the university syndicate, at a meeting, gave its nod to offer free seats in various under-graduate and post-graduate programmes in its constituent colleges and PG campuses in the region.

The university will provide five free seats for children of Covid-19 victims

University of Mysore syndicate member Dr E C Ningaraja Gowda, who got to know that many students were on the verge of discontinuing their higher education after losing their parent/parents to Covid-19, raised the issue during the syndicate meeting.

University of Mysore will now provide five free seats for children of Covid-19 victims to take up under-graduate programmes and three seats for post-graduate courses.

"Five free seats each will be reserved at the varsity constituent colleges — Maharaja's College, Yuvaraja College, Evening College and Fine Arts College. Similarly, three free seats will be reserved for PG courses at our Mysuru, Mandya, Hassan and Chamarajanagar PG campuses. These seats will be given to those eligible and who have lost the earning member in the family and will be distributed on merit basis," Vice-Chancellor of University of Mysore, Prof G Hemantha Kumar, said.

"I had sought the varsity authorities to provide free seats to poor students and those coming from economically weaker families from the region who had lost their parents to Covid. The varsity, which has contributed in many ways in the fight against the pandemic, has acceded to my request," Gowda said.

Techie turns saviour, sets up helpline

MAHESH M GOUDAR @ Vijayapura

A 33-year-old techie from Vijayapura has set up a 24X7 helpline to assist Covid-19 patients in finding beds, oxygen cylinders and medicines.

Zahoor Kazi, who works as a software engineer at a private firm in Bengaluru, started 'Mercy Helpline Vijayapura' (MHV) on May 14 in collaboration with doctors, activists and other software engineers. As many as 10 doctors, settled abroad (the USA, the UK and the Middle East) and in the state, have agreed to provide free tele-consultation to the patients, mainly for those in home isolation.As many as six graduates have volunteered to work with the MHV, attending calls and assisting the needy. The team has set up a helpline number — 7848025025.

The MHV works round-the-clock and, on an average, receives 30 calls each day from Vijayapura, Bagalkot and Belagavi. It also collaborates with at least five NGOs that help people by supporting them financially in paying hospital bills, supplying grocery kits, cremating unclaimed bodies of Covid victims and other help related to Covid and black fungus.

Speaking to TNIE, Zahroor Kazi, said, "Our main objective is to help the needy in such tough times. We are working in coordination with district officials. We are also creating awareness on Covid-19." The MHV has so far helped at least 15 patients in getting oxygen beds and about 10 people in getting ventilators. Also, 10 patients have availed the free tele-consultation services.

"Most people who call us are from urban areas. We want to reach out to those in villages too as they have limited knowledge of the disease. Now, frequency of calls to MHV has reduced owing to a dip in cases," Kazi added.

O2 Express trains help create buffer for B'luru

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

THE 16th Oxygen Express for Karnataka chugged into the inland container depot at Whitefield on Friday, bearing 121.91 metric tonnes of liquid medical oxygen.

Manish Moudgil, state nodal officer for oxygen distribution, told TNIE, "We send it wherever there is a critical need for oxygen. We have kept 150 mt as buffer for Bengaluru, where consumption is 850 mt per day. The buffer is utilised whenever a shortage arises. Steps are being taken to create a buffer in districts which have already met their needs." No one in the state government was able to give specific information on the exact quantity distributed to various districts or hospitals.

State nodal officer for liquid medical oxygen, ADGP Pratap Reddy, said that all the oxygen supplied by rail was through private manufacturers. "The oxygen comes to a common point and is sent to refilling units whenever there is distress. It could be refilling units anywhere, including hospitals. The oxygen supplied to us through the Indian Navy comes free of cost, and is being sent to government hospitals across the state also without any charge," he said.

The sixteenth Oxygen Express from Rourkela, Odisha, enters Karnataka

The state has so far received 1894.71 metric tonnes of oxygen through rail. Karnataka had requested the Railway Board on May 1 to facilitate supplies due to the oxygen shortage.

Despite repeated requests for details on the Oxygen Express, Commerce and Industries Commissioner Gunjan Krishna was not forthcoming with any information. "I am very busy and cannot spend time on such small issues," was her response. No official was able to give information on the cost of buying oxygen from private suppliers.

Cops open fire at gangrape accused, two women held

ENS @ Bengaluru

THE police on Friday opened fire at two accused, who had allegedly raped and brutally tortured a young woman in their house in Bengaluru, when they tried to attack the accompanying policemen and escape during a spot mahazar.

The police also nabbed two women in the case on Friday, taking the total number of arrested in the case to six. The victim, who had gone missing from Bengaluru after the video of the rape went viral in Assam, was traced in Kerala and brought to the city to record her statement.

The Ramamurthy Nagar police had taken the four accused, who were arrested on Thursday evening, for the spot inspection at K. Channasandra, where the accused stayed at a rented house and committed the crime. Hriday Babu (25) and Rakibul Islam Sagar (23), who are the prime accused, attacked Banaswadi Assistant Commissioner of Police NS Sakri and other policemen, and tried to snatch their firearms when inspector Melvin Francis fired at them.

A senior police officer said, "The police fired in self-defence as the accused tried to attack them. Both were shot in the knee and later shifted to a government hospital for first-aid. Sub-Inspector Aravind Kumar and two constables Ravi Kumar and Mohan were injured in the incident."

The accused and the 22-year-old victim, all from Bangladesh, were involved in an international human trafficking racket and were staying in Bengaluru illegally. The two women arrested on Friday, Kajal M (22) and Nasarat (23), alleged helped the gang in sexual assault, police said.

PM praises preparedness, gives ₹500 cr aid to Odisha

Centre to send inter-ministerial team to assess extent of damage

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bhubaneswar

APPRECIATING the preparedness and disaster management by Odisha government, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday announced a financial assistance of ₹500 crore to the State for immediate relief and restoration activities in areas affected by cyclone Yaas.

The Prime Minister made this announcement after an aerial survey of the cyclone affected areas of Odisha and West Bengal. The assistance will be immediately released to the State.The Centre will send an inter-ministerial team to the State to assess the extent of damage, based on which further assistance will be given, the Prime Minister's office said. Modi assured the people of Odisha that Centre would closely work with the State government at this difficult time, extend all possible assistance for restoration and rebuilding of the infrastructure in the affected areas.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik during a meeting to review the impact of Cyclone Yaas | EXPRESS

ASSAULTED BY POLICE, *TNIE* SCRIBE NARRATES ORDEAL

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Madikeri

IT was 7.30 am on Friday and I learnt about hundreds of residents crowding outside the Madikeri Army Canteen to avail the monthly quota of supplies. I rushed to the spot even as I shot a video of the queue, which stretched over 1 km. I reached the Army Canteen gate and spoke to one of the customers waiting for his turn to enter. I learnt that people had been waiting since 3am, as the canteen opened its doors on Friday after shutting in April.

The canteen gates opened and a few customers were let in. I stood by the roadside to shoot a video. A customer came up and told me to stop recording. I told him I was from *The New Indian Express* and was covering the news. By then, a staff member from the Army Canteen walked towards me and demanded my ID card, though I was not trespassing the canteen premises. I was shooting a video of the crowd nearly 200 metres away from the canteen. I had genuinely forgotten to carry my ID card and told him I would get it. One of them also insulted my profession, calling it *"mooru kaasina kelasa"*.

The unknown man grabbed me by my hand, pushed me and pulled my phone from my hand. He threw it away, even as I was in tears and strongly protested

Prajna G R, TNIE reporter

The staffer tried to snatch my mobile phone, as he called Madikeri ASI Dayanad for help. Dayanad walked towards me and pushed me. I protested even as Army staff, an unknown person who was in the queue, and a police constable started walking towards me as I walked backwards, continuing to shoot the video. I did not stop recording and ASI Dayanad tried to grab my phone.

The unknown man grabbed me by my hand, pushed me and pulled my phone from my hand. He threw it away, even as I was in tears and strongly protested but the public only watched. Immediately, a retired Army personnel who recognised me came to my rescue. That was when the ASI and other assaulters backed off.

I was shocked after being manhandled by police and an unknown person. When the Madikeri Press Club members met DySP Dinesh to report against ASI Dayanad, he assured us that he would warn the ASI. A complaint of assault was filed against the unknown person and investigation is on by Madikeri Women Police.

(As told by Prajna G R, Staff Reporter, TNIE, Madikeri)

Police seek help to trace fraudster

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

KARNATAKA police have sought the cooperation of the public in tracing a fraudster, who has opened accounts in various banks under various names by producing forged documents, and hiding his original identity.

DGP, CID, Special Units and Economic Offences, PS Sandhu said the real identity of the accused is not known except for his photographs, which police have collected during the course of investigation. His sole intention was to cheat innocent people.

According to police, the accused opened accounts in two branches of SBI and in one branch of Canara Bank in Gorakhpur, UP. One account is in the name of Vijay, in Padri Bazar Branch of SBI, with his residential address as House #378 and 2/255, Manas Vihar Colony, Gorakhpur Sadar, Gorakhpur.

He opened another account in the Mohaddipur branch of SBI in the name of Sumit Singh and a new address. For a third account, which he opened at Taramandal branch, he gave his name as Sandeep Jaiswal with another address.

City cybercrime police station registered two criminal cases against the fraudster.

Karnataka HC quashes cases against realtor

ENS @ Bengaluru

THE Karnataka High Court quashed two complaints lodged by real estate developer Prajwal Shenava against Yousuff Shariff aka D Babu, proprietor of Umrah Developers, and all further criminal proceedings pending before the trial court. The court also quashed the counter-complaint filed by Shariff against Prajwal Shenava, director of Indraprastha Shelters Private Limited, and two others.

In the judgment delivered on October 23, 2020, Justice BA Patil allowed three separate petitions filed by Shariff, Shenava and two others, and quashed the proceedings.

"Keeping in view the proposition of law and factual matrix of the cases on hand, it clearly indicates that a dispute which is essentially civil in nature, is given a cloak of criminality. When a civil remedy is available, continuation of criminal proceedings appear to be abuse of process of law. In that light, the petitioners have made out a case to quash the proceedings," the court said.

EXPRESS READ

Canara Bank to raise ₹9K cr through equity, debt instruments

Canara Bank, in its Board of Directors' meeting on Friday, has approved the capital raising plan of the bank for the financial year 2021-22 amounting to Rs 9,000 crore by way of equity and debt instruments. The bank's board of directors has approved to raise equity share capital amounting to Rs 2,500 crore, including premium, by way of Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP), during the financial year 2021-22, out of the Rs 9,000 crore.

Bommai: Raise loans, give as compensation to states

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

TO offset losses due to the lockdown and decreased economic activity, Bommai urged the Union Government to once again raise loans and extend them as compensation to state governments for 2021-22. After much pushback last year, the Centre had agreed to borrow under a special window to offset revenue loss for state governments, but had insisted repayment would come from GST cess collected after 2022.

Karnataka joined other states in seeking exemption on resources required for Covid and black fungus treatment. "He also stressed on the expansion of the scope of IGST exemption to cover the free supply of purchased goods. He requested that in addition to the goods already recommended, oxygen, equipment, PPE kits, medicines for black fungus should be included in the list of concessional goods," said a statement from Bommai's office.

Indian Overseas Bank

Printing and Stationery Department
Central Office:763,ANNA SALAI,CHENNAI-600002.
Phone No.044- 2888 9312

Empanelment of Security Printers & Fixing of rate contract for PRINTING OF PERSONALIZED CHEQUES

Applications are invited in prescribed format for empanelment of security printers & fixing of rate contract for Printing of Personalized Cheques, from competent and eligible printers who are in approved list of IBA for printing CTS 2010 standard security instruments.

The E-tenders can be applied through **https://iobtenders.auctiontiger.net/EPROC/** or downloaded from **www.iob.in.**

Document Fee, Non refundable	Rs.10,000/- (including GST)
Last date and time for submission	23.06.2021 up to 15.00 hrs

Bank reserves the right to change/modify the terms & conditions mentioned in this tender document, which will be displayed on Bank's Website only.

General Manager

UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES, DHARWAD
Office of the Registrar, Krishinagar, Dharwad-5,

No.R/Rectt/Advt.59/2021 Date: 25.05.2021

SHORT NOTIFICATION

Sub: Recruitment to various posts of Officers (tenure basis) in the University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad.

Ref : Notification No.R/Rectt/Advt.59/2021 dated 25.05.2021

The Officers posts (tenure basis) in the University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad are advertised for recruitment vide University Notification referred above. The said notification, application formats, processing fee and last date for submission of filled-in application etc. are accessible in the University's Official Website **(www.uasd.edu).** Interested candidates may refer the website for details.

Sd/- REGISTRAR

IDFC First Bank Limited
(erstwhile IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Ltd)
CIN : L65110TN2014PLC097792
Registered Office: - KRM Towers, 8th Floor, Harrington Road, Chetpet, Chennai- 600031.
Tel : +91 44 4564 4000 | Fax: +91 44 4564 4022

IDFC FIRST Bank

Notice under Section 13 (2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

The following borrowers and co-borrowers availed the below mentioned secured loans from **IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Ltd)** The loans of the below-mentioned borrowers and co- borrowers have been secured by the mortgage of their respective properties. As they have failed to adhere to the terms and conditions of the respective loan agreements and had become irregular, their loan were classified as NPA as per the RBI guidelines. Amounts due by them to **IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Ltd)** are mentioned as per respective notices issued more particularly described in the following table and further interest on the said amounts shall also be applicable and the same will be charged as per contractual rate with effect from their respective dates.

Sr No.	Loan Account No.	Type of Loan	Name of borrowers and co-borrowers	Section 13 (2) Notice Date	Outstanding amount as per Section 13 (2) Notice	Property Address
1	10060434091 10004144161	Overdraft Facility	1. Aarati Textiles 2. Mr. Shrikant Chawan 3. Mrs. Manjula Shrikant	10.05.2021	INR 38,56,278.43/-	**All That Part and Parcel of** The Immovable Property Bearing Site No. 29, Municipal Khatha No. 40, Situated at Attiguppe Village Bangalore City Corporation Division No. 21 Presently Within The Jurisdiction of BBMP Ward No.132 and Assigned Municipal No.36/2 Situated at 1st Main Road, Attiguppe, Vijayanagar Bangalore-560040 Bearing Bbmp Property Id No 40-106/36/2 Measuring East to West 25 Feet and North to South 75 Feet In All Totally Measuring 1875 Square Feet And Bounded as Following: East: Mallappa Property, West: Gangappa Property, North : Harijana Colony, South : Road
2	10046994595	Overdraft Facility	1. Sairam Tours & Travels 2. Puttaswamy Vinay Kumar 3. K Parvathamma 4. Cputtaswamy	10.05.2021	INR 16,82,553/-	**All That Part and Parcel of** Property Bearing Intermediate Site No. 194, Situated At Remco Private Layout, Hosahalli, Kempapura Ahrahara, Banglore Measuring East to West 40.5 Ft & North to South 30 Ft, Bounded As Following: East: Site No. 201, West:30 Ft Road, North:site No. 193, South:Site No. 195

You are hereby called upon to pay the amounts to **IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Ltd)** as per the details shown in the above table with contracted rate of interest thereupon from their respective dates and other costs, charges etc., within 60 days from the date of this publication, failing which the undersigned shall be constrained to initiate proceedings, under Section 13 (4) and section 14 of the SARFAESI Act, against the mortgaged properties mentioned hereinabove to realize the amount due to **IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Ltd)** Further you are prohibited under Section 13 (13) of the said Act from transferring the said secured assets either by way of sale/lease or otherwise.

Sd/-
Authorized Officer
IDFC FIRST Bank Limited
(erstwhile IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Ltd)

Date : 29.05.2021
Place : Bangalore

IDFC FIRST Bank Limited
(erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited) | CIN : L65110TN2014PLC097792
Registered Office: - KRM Towers, 8th Floor, Harrington Road, Chetpet, Chennai- 600031.
Tel : +91 44 4564 4000 | Fax: +91 44 4564 4022

IDFC FIRST Bank

Notice under Section 13 (2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

The following borrowers and co-borrowers availed the below mentioned secured loans from **IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited)** The loans of the below-mentioned borrowers and co- borrowers have been secured by the mortgage of their respective properties. As they have failed to adhere to the terms and conditions of the respective loan agreements and had become irregular, their loan were classified as NPA as per the RBI guidelines. Amounts due by them to **IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited)** are mentioned as per respective notices issued more particularly described in the following table and further interest on the said amounts shall also be applicable and the same will be charged as per contractual rate with effect from their respective dates.

Sr No.	Loan Account No.	Type of Loan	Name of borrowers and co-borrowers	Section 13 (2) Notice Date	Outstanding amount as per Section 13 (2) Notice	Property Address
1	1845737 & 1869459	Loan Against Property	1. Ashwini Press Com 2. Bharathi Mani 3. Mani Appaswamy	11-04-2021	INR 17137840.09 /-	**Property-1 -** All That Piece And Parcel Of The Property Bearing K.h.b. No. 55.b And New Municipal No.55. B/21 Situated At Manuvana, Karnataka Housing Board Colony, Vijayanagar, Bangalore City Corporation Division No.30, Bangalore, Presently Within The Limits Of Bbmp Measuring East To West 40ft & **North To South: 25ft, And Bounded As : East : House No.66/a-b, West: Road, North: House No.55-a, South : House No.56-a** **Property-2 -** All That Part And Parcel Of Property Bearing Shed No. B-37, C.M.C, Khatha No.102 Situated In N.G.E.F, Ancilliary Industrial Estate, Mahadevapura C.m.c. Presently Within The Limits Of Bbmp Measuring East To West 16.35 Mtrs & North To South 29.20 Mtrs Totally Measuring 477.42 Sq.mtrs **And Bounded As: East : Service Road, West: Shed No.b-38, North : Road South: Property Of bhorukaglass**
2	263523	Home Equity	1. Kiran Soans 2. Milcha Alice Gokavi	11-04-2021	INR 6640189.58/-	All That Piece And Parcel of properrty Bearing New Municipal No.21/1, Pid No.75-5-21/1, Old No. 21, Later No. 22, Earlier No.3, Situated At Doopanahalli Garden, Hal 2nd Stage, Indiranagar, In Corporation Ward No. 72 (Domlur), Bangalore Measuring On The East: 40 Feet, West: 45 Feet, North: 43 Feet & South : 44 Feet, Together With Building Standing Thereon, And Bounded As: **East : Bda Margin Land And Beyond That Road, West: BDA/corporation Draingae Running North To South And Beyond That BDA Property, North: Remaining Portion Of The Same Property Retained By The Vendors, South : BDA Road**
3	21025426	Loan Against Property	1. Mr. Krishna G 2. Mrs. Annapoorna Krishna G,	19.04.2021	INR 4059880.53/-	All That Piece And Parcel Of Office Premisis Bearing No. 40/71 On The Fourth Floor Of Lakshmi Complex (a Portion Of Property Bearing Earlier No. 40) Situated At Sri Krishnarajendra Road, Fort A Street, Bangalore, Presently Within The Limits Of Bbmr, Bbmp Ward No.162, Girinagar, Measuring In All About 642 Sq. Ft.(59.65 Sq. Meters) Built Up Area Along With 222 Sq. Ft. Uds, And Bounded As: **East : Office Premisis No. 40/72, West : Office Premisis No. 40/70, North: Corridor 1.8 Meters Wide, South: Open Space**
4	13847905.	Loan Against Property	1. Penguins Promo Products Pvt Ltd 2. Mr. Lalit Jain 3. Mr. Mandyam Devashikamani Ramanujam 4. Mr. Nirmal Bantiya 5. Mrs. Shanthi Devi	17.04.2021	INR 21979992.58/-	All That Part And Parcel Of Property Bearing No. 30 (old No. 18/1), Pid No. 77-94-30, Situated At Yamuna Bai Road, Madhavanagara, Bangalore -560001 Presently Under Thee Limits Of Bbmp, Measuring East To West : (48+33)/2 Ft., And North To South : (34+37) /2ft. Totally Measuring To An Extent Of 1440 Square Feet, And Bounded As : **East : Property Of Thammaiah Shetty, West: Yamuna Bai Road, North: Passage Of Thammaiah Shetty, South: House Of Gopi Vallabha Iyenger**
5	13889508	Loan Against Property	1. Prakash M 2. Sukanya S 3. Madhu T	11.04.2021	INR 2055244.77/-	All That Piece And Parcel Of The Vacant Site Bearing No. 90, Having Khatha No. 150, Formed In Sy. No. 55/2 Measuring 4-00 Acres Vide Conversion Order No. Aln (n)/sr 58/1999-2000 Dated 14-01-2000, Measuring: East To West: 100 Feet, North To South: 50 Feet. Totally Measuring 5,000 Square Ft., Situated At Yentaganahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Banglore Rural District, Karnataka And Bounded As: **North : Road, South : Property Bearing Site No. 91, West : Road East By: Property Bearing Site No. 67**
6	1371486	Loan Against Property	1. Siddeswari V 2. Ramkishor Channam Chetty 3. Rama Pradeep C 4. Ramachandraiah Channamasetty	11.04.2021	INR 16849047.78/-	All That Piece And Parcel Of The Property Bearing Site No.s – 282 S – 283 S – 284, In Converted Sy. No. 11/8, Vide Conversion Order No. Bds.aln.sr. (s) 2/1994-95, Old House List Khatha No. 1035, New Khatha No. 1358/1035/s-282, 1358/1035/s-283 & 1358/1035/s-284, Situated At Thanisandra Village, K.r. Puram Hobli, Banglore East (formerly South) Talik, Banglore, Presently Comes Under The Jurisdiction Of Bbmp. And Being Bounded As: For Site No. S-282 : **North : Road, South: Site No. S - 283, East : Road West : Private Property** For Site No. S-283 : **North : Site No. S – 282, South: Site No. S - 284, East: Road, West: Site No. S – 300** For Site No. S-284 : **North: House Site No. S – 283, South: House Site No. S - 285, East : Road, West : House Site No. S – 299** Measuring: East To West: 65 Ft. And North To South: 40 Ft.
7	29289270 & 17271340	Home Loan	1. Vazeer Khan Ek 2. Afroze Begum Ar 3. Vazeer Khan Ek	11.04.2021	INR 3453335.62/-	All That Piece And Parcel Of The Resedential Flat No. 301, Measuring 1585 Sq. Ft. Of Built Up Area At Second Floor Of Building Known As "Vmaks Roselle" Along With 500 Sq. Ft. Of Undivided Share Of Right, Title And Interest In The Land With A Car Parking In The Basement Of Building Constructed On Resedentially Converted Land Bearing Survey No. 130/4, Situated At Kammasandra Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Comprising Of Stilt, Ground And Three Upper Floors Building And Bounded As : **East: Land Belongs To Mr. Muniyappa , West: Land Belongs To Mr. Chikka Venkataramana , North : Land Belongs To Mr. Nagamma, South: Land Belongs To Mr. Chowdappa**
8	21006682	Home Loan	1. Venkataramana Guruvaiah 2. Shankaramma Penchalaiah	19.04.2021	INR 2127450.54/-	All The Piece And Parcel Of The Property Bearing Extract Of B Property Register No. 4382/38/a/23, Old Site No. 23, Measuring East To West (26+25.6)/2 Feet And North To South 38 Feet, Formed In Land Bearing Survey No. 38/a Of Karivabanahalli Village, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, And Bounded As: **East : Road, West: Property Bearing Site No. 24, North: Road, South: Property Belongs To Mrs. Muniyamma**
9	23733081	Loan Against Property	1. Dinesh Kumar 2. Mangalamma Malaverayya	15.04.2021	INR 1582118.09/-	All That Piece And Parcel Of Property Bearing Extract Of E Swathu Bearing No. 129, Old Khaneshumari No. 129, Property No. 15030302801520005, Measuring East To West 50 Feet And North To South 39 Feet, Formed In Land Bearing Survey No. 1/1, Situated At Gulya Village, Madure Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Comprising Of A Building, And Being Bounded As: **North: Property Belongs To Mr. Veerbhadraiah, South : Property Belongs To Mr. Veerbhadraiah, East : Property Belongs To Mr. Veerbhadraiah, West : Road & Property Belongs To Mr. Veerbhadraiah**

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Sd/-
Authorized Officer
IDFC First Bank Limited
(erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited)

Date : 29.05.2021
Place : Bangalore

EDITORIAL

So long as the sense of doership is retained, there is the desire. ... The sense of doership is the bondage and not the actions themselves

Ramana Maharshi

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

RBI'S AGGRESSIVE FOREX INTERVENTION AND THE WAY FORWARD

The Centre struck a rich vein last week with the RBI transferring a larger-than-expected dividend of nearly ₹1 lakh crore. This was more than double the government had budgeted, and given the bleak revenue collections, it sweetens the prospective stimulus pot. The unexpected bounty was a result of the RBI's aggressive selling of foreign currency, with gains shooting up by an unprecedented 69% in FY21. Between July 2020 and March 2021, it sold $85 billion worth dollars as against $20 billion last year. Of this, $62 billion worth was sold during the last three months of FY21, which only makes one notice how the RBI went out of its way to rescue the Centre's strained finances. The RBI was also a net forex buyer in FY21, having bought a net $88 billion in the spot market, making the rupee the worst performer among Asian currencies and placing India on the US Treasury's watch list for currency manipulation.

Foreign assets grew by 11.5% last fiscal, but any additional growth won't come without implications. With banks depositing excess liquidity back with the RBI under the reverse repo window, the central bank's key policy tool—repo rate—is rendered ineffective to support the economy and counter the threat of rising inflation. So some believe the RBI's aggressive forex intervention helped manage yields and price rise in the short-term. By the central bank's own admission, rupee appreciation last year helped contain imported inflationary pressure as it lowered the oil import bill, besides others.

So, should the RBI continue going to the forex market with an open hat? Certainly not, as such forex-led higher dividend compels it to face the trilemma of managing balance sheet expansion, bond yields and rupee volatility. While it may have eased pressure on government finances this fiscal, it downsized the RBI's economic capital to 21.7% of total assets from a high of 26.7% seen last year. Going ahead, the central bank has to cleverly balance bond purchases and forex assets without affecting yields and rupee appreciation, which could be counterintuitive and further lower its economic capital.

BCCI MUST TAKE CARE OF DOMESTIC PLAYERS

In 2017/2018, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) became rich. Very, very rich. The BCCI laughed its way to the bank after selling TV rights for all bilateral international and domestic cricket in the country apart from the Indian Premier League. It got over ₹6,000 crore for home series and domestic cricket and a touch over ₹16,300 crore (roughly $2.5 billion) for the IPL. Suffice to say they are the richest cricket board in the world. With this much money at its disposal, players, even those plying their trade away from the glare in domestic cricket, will have expected a pay hike. Or much-needed reforms, including a contract system. Scores of them have not been paid gross revenue since 2018. A few of the stories as narrated in this newspaper in recent days paint a depressing picture. Some of the domestic players, without IPL contracts, have had to play local club cricket in the UK for 150 pounds a week to pay their bills back home in India. It's a damning indictment of the status quo at play. If you are an elite men's cricketer or have an IPL contract, you will not struggle but if you are just a domestic cricketer, then you will have to fight for your survival seems to be the tone.

That this isn't just a recent issue but a historical one is another interesting point. "Never understood the delayed payment system in first-class cricket," wrote Bengal cricketer Shreevats Goswami on Twitter. "This has been happening for ages now. We never complain but if we do, people think we are arrogant and asking for favours." This is why former and current players were happy after Sourav Ganguly became the BCCI president. He was, after all, 'one of their own'. However, not much has changed. State units are yet to get their money. The compensation for players has not been paid. Even the ones who have seen their pay cheques are struggling because the curtailed season didn't have the Ranji Trophy—the big money-earner for players without 'regular jobs'. The Board needs to think about a pay hike or a meritorious contract system. After all, it's the players who make the game.

Our critics can often teach us more if we are willing to set our egos aside. But when the script is unvarying from start to finish, writers lose their credibility to intervene effectively

REALITY VS RHETORIC: DECODING THE SMEAR INDIA CAMPAIGN

AMIT BANDRE

MAKARAND R PARANJAPE

Director, Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

More than 20 years ago, two officers of China's People's Liberation Army published a book that subsequently acquired the status of a cult classic. In *Unrestricted Warfare: Assumptions on War and Tactics in the Age of Globalization* (Beijing: PLA Literature and Arts Publishing House, 1999), Col Qiao Liang and Col Wang Xiangsui outlined the essential ingredients of political warfare in plain language.

Unrestricted warfare "means that any methods can be prepared for use, information is everywhere, the battlefield is everywhere ... any technology might be combined with any other technology, and that the boundaries between war and non-war and between military and non-military affairs [are] systematically broken down." Unfortunately, such unrestricted warfare, at least when it comes to narrative rivalry, is no longer the exclusive preserve of conflicts between competing nations.

During the raging pandemic, it seems as if an unrestricted information war has broken out between opposing political factions, with the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led National Democratic Alliance on one side and the opposition parties, backed by a vast array of interested civil society actors, on the other. The controversy over social media platforms such as WhatsApp, Facebook and Twitter has also flared up at the same time.

While posting promoted content that is paid for, such media companies not only influence opinion but also make large amounts of money doing so, without fully divulging which trends are paid for and which are organic. Now, it seems, they want to take to task the very government of the land, supposedly in the name of freedom of expression, while themselves controlling, muzzling, or endorsing content without full transparency. The Delhi Police, in its investigation of the Toolkit case, hit back, calling Twitter's allegations "mendacious" and "designed to impede a lawful inquiry".

For us in India, the danger is that our very freedoms and constitutional guarantees can be used to subvert and sabotage our core values and social solidarity. Our naivete, ignorance, avarice and lack of patriotism can easily be exploited to create unrest and discontent. Everywhere you look, there is out-and-out propaganda on the one hand, or soft deception and fabrication on the other. A great deal of critical acumen is required to sift the true from the false, the authentic from the motivated and the trustworthy from the malign.

Long before the so-called Congress "Toolkit" surfaced, I began to notice the orchestrated smear campaign especially against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and more generally, against India in the global and domestic media. Till this date we don't know conclusively whether the said toolkit is fake or has basis in fact. However, a certain coordinated campaign with a deliberate attack-Modi slant was evident.

How do disaster narratives attack their chosen targets? They mitigate and deflect responsibility where they want to protect or shield, exaggerate and redirect blame where they want to assault. Such orchestration may be considered a massive exercise in media mischief. It consists not just of massaging the message but ravaging the narrative. How soon the spin turns into a witch hunt, ignoring or glossing over everything that is not grist to its misinformation mill.

Since the second surge of the coronavirus began to spiral out of control in India, a worldwide campaign—from the United States to Australia, with other notable centres in the rest of the free world including the United Kingdom, Europe and Japan—began to unfold. Its main target was the Modi administration, including the prime minister himself, with Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath following in order of invective and hatred. In the process, the underlying objective also seemed to have been to undermine India's standing in the eyes of the world and of its own citizens.

> We don't know conclusively whether the so-called Congress 'Toolkit' is fake or has basis in fact. However, a coordinated campaign with a deliberate slant against the prime minister, and more generally India, has been evident even earlier

The sad fact was that most of these pieces were not written by foreigners, but by Indians themselves, whether stationed in those countries or in India. Most of these members of the erstwhile establishment, derisively called the Khan Market gang of Lutyens Delhi, had strong links of family, reciprocity and patronage with previous regimes or opposition parties. The nexus extended from coast to coast in North America and all over the English-speaking world.

It was not the manner of their marshalling of facts that bothered me, albeit these were obviously slanted. Nor, indeed, their stance, which each writer was entitled to. Yes, let us admit it. We were collectively mistaken, participating in a nationwide delusion that, somehow, we might be spared the worst effects of the pandemic. Perhaps, we suffered from our own unique form of blindness, call it Indian exceptionalism for want of better terminology.

For many in India, the writers of such anti-India tirades were what might be termed "repeat offenders" when it comes to "India-bashing". Their sharply acerbic and negative portrayals of our current issues and crises have made them much more of bete noires rather than causes celebre in India's public discourse. That they are of Indian descent but only denigrate India makes their criticism all the more galling.

But I, for one, do not wish to excessively excoriate or dismiss them out of hand. Our critics can actually be our best friends. They can teach us more and hurt us less if we are willing to set our egos aside. And national egos tend to be even more inflated than individual ones, often much more in need of puncturing. India-detractors ably serve this purpose.

But when the script is unvarying and unwavering from start to finish, the writers lose their credibility and ability to intervene effectively. If all they have tried to do is demonise Modi, blame him for every pitfall and misstep in India's handling of the Covid-19 crisis, crucify him, dump the entire blame of the catastrophe on one individual from start to finish, then they have failed.

More than the bad press that such writers give Modi, they also show their own disdain and derision for India. No wonder many regard them as acting in bad faith, if not betraying their motherland.

(Views are personal)
(Tweets @MakrandParanspe)

HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE POST-COVID ERA

AMRUTH G KUMAR

Professor, School of Education, Central University of Kerala

Our campuses have become as silent as graveyards during the Covid period. What changes will happen to the sights and noises that mark our students' lives on campuses during the post-Covid era?

The change in educational institutions from a window of knowledge to a window to the labour market is all the rage now. The National Education Policy underscores the need for such a transformation. The pandemic should be seen only as a catalyst for the changes largely underway. Many things labelled as oddball reforms before Covid may have become a necessity now. For example, the use of mobile phones during class hours would have annoyed teachers in the pre-Covid period. And the open book examination system will become part of the quotidian practices. The irresistible influx of digital technology into education will take place; in a sense, education will become a digital colony in the post-Covid period. Therefore, locating knowledge with digital tools can become as important as the intellectual ability to learn and analyse content and approach learning critically. While there will be a spate of micro-level changes, we need to anticipate the ones likely to affect the system at large.

All present: Almost all universities in India have condonation fees for lack of attendance. Students in higher education often lack attendance for various reasons—political, economic and personal ones, including early marriage, physical difficulties, and so on. But it is not surprising that in the post-Covid era, the concept of online attendance as an alternative will be even interpreted as a right of the student. As a better customer care practice, the odds are high that all teachers regularly have to log in to online classroom applications during their regular classrooms. There is a possibility that even the judiciary may come to the point where prohibiting a student to write exams due to lack of physical attendance can be interpreted as a violation of the right to education. Thus technology has percolated into education so much that it completely marginalises the physical and social dimensions of education.

After the advent of the choice-based credit and semester system, we are witnessing ritualisation of assessments in higher education institutions. Too many exams with significantly less potential to contribute anything seriously to improve the teaching-learning process. Everyone gets high marks (often above 70%) too. Marks are often not correlated to attendance in the current scenario.

It is a strong labour market that stealthily offers new interpretations for the great idea of self-reliance in education as the student's responsibility to work while enrolled in a study programme. Making such a section of the youth (especially those who are financially backward) available for work while enrolled in a study programme ensures continuous labour supply in the market. Students will be forced to incline towards the demands of employers rather than the needs of educational institutions. This will become the perfect example of the tragedy of the commons in the future. All students may think that 'though I go to college regularly, no one else does; then why should I?'. This will reduce education to an activity that requires only the secondary consideration of students.

It is very difficult to meet this challenge unless we make education an enjoyable social process. The social engagement and enjoyment derived from it need to become the most critical indicator of education quality. So we should pay special attention to strengthening a philosophy based on the idea of growing society rather than reduction to the individual to sow the seeds of a robust educational culture in the post-Covid era.

> Teachers need to respond to changes by participating in a collective effort to shape progressive forms of society and economy through socially committed perspectives. Education should shape the labour market, not vice versa

Teaching executives: If the choice-based credit and semester is implemented in its true sense, each year, the syllabus of courses will change. Teachers will have absolute freedom to design and teach new courses. They can attract students from other departments in the same college or university by offering soft courses. With the help of MOOC courses, teachers can attract students from all over the country. Therefore the teacher with the most students enrolled in their courses will be the most valuable teacher. To a large extent, teacher skills and depth of knowledge will not be the criteria; their market potential will become a significant factor.

Simultaneously, another critical factor in attracting students will be the institution's goodwill and credibility where these teachers teach. Institutions rely on accrediting agencies to earn such a name. The new NEP opens up the process of accreditation to a two-tier competition. While the institutions may compete for better rank through accreditation, the accrediting institutions will also compete to survive. In this way, institutions' reputation in a perfectly competitive accreditation market will become an essential tool for attracting students to courses. As course enrolment through MOOC is a global competition, our traditional colleges will have a tough time ahead.

The response to all of this from college managements would be to follow a business model rooted in competition. This means that strategies for enrolling more students in courses offered by their teachers will become part of the very existence of colleges. In the Victorian era, teachers' salaries were fixed in proportion to students' numbers in their classes. Therefore, the teachers devised all sorts of strategies to attract the maximum number of students to their class. The sufferers were the erudite teachers who got fewer students.

Teachers' intellectual pursuits will have to be aligned with the trends in the labour market. In a short period, these changes will transform teachers into a class that delivers a kind of human capital as dictated by the labour market from time to time. The courses change from year to year, and teachers will be responsible for their success and failure. Courses demanded by the market are more likely to accumulate than ones based on teachers' insights and interests. There will be a new genre of teachers, the 'teaching executives'. Marketing their courses will become the priority.

Teachers need to respond to such changes by participating in a collective effort to shape progressive forms of society and economy through socially committed perspectives. To break the shackles of alienation surrounding the teachers, a culture of critical learning must become part of teacher education. Education shall shape the labour market, not vice versa.

(amruth@cukerala.ac.in)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Take China to task for virus

This is with reference to *Will US politics bury or expose truth?* (May 28). The article has brought out some disquieting information on China's dubious role behind the pandemic. Whether the US government sheds more light on this role or not, China must be taken to task internationally for inflicting such a colossal tragedy on the whole world.

P Mangalachandran, Kannur

Who bears responsibility?

The article sheds light on the origin of the coronavirus and the suspected role of the US in funding it indirectly. Whether the truth comes out or not, it is a fact that the pandemic has ruined more lives all over than any recent wars. Global economy is in shambles. It is not clear who will bear the responsibility for all the loss that people have faced.

S V N Vijayendra, Hyderabad

Discrediting India

This is with reference to *Work with states unhindered by ego* (May 23). Of late, it seems to have become an obsession for some to discredit India, our scientists, and PM Narendra Modi. Articles that smugly announce that India has crossed three lakh Covid deaths and is behind only the US and Brazil do not mention that the population of the latter two nations is just 33 crores and 21 crores respectively, while ours is 137 crores.

P Rajesh, Kannur

Don't stop development

This is with reference to *Rethink reforms in Lakshadweep, rein in administrator* (May 28). Others must not stand in the way of legitimate development in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep. The UT has been left to its own devices so far and some of administrator Praful Patel's measures will help in bringing it out of the underdevelopment it has been festering in.

S Lakshmi, email

Good decision by RBI

The RBI seems to have stopped printing `2,000 notes, which is a welcome step. The `500 denominations are perfect while the `2,000 ones are not useful for daily transactions, especially for lower and middle income families. One hopes the erstwhile `1,000 denomination notes make a comeback after the `2,000 ones are gradually withdrawn.

M Haneef, Kottayam

Accountability & planning

This is with reference to *Using management theory to govern states* (May 28). Management theory is one of the key tools for administration not only in companies but also in state governance. Accountability and proper planning will pave the way for good revenue to the state administration and satisfaction to the citizens.

V K S Krishnan, Kumbakonam

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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TWEETS OF THE DAY

Jairam Ramesh @Jairam_Ramesh
Instead of stupendous claims of year-end targets, Modi govt must make granular day-to-day roadmap public

Yashwant Sinha @YashwantSinha
PM Modi is doing a fantastic job. Rivers are flowing with milk and honey, only occasionally with dead bodies. But the Western media is totally biased. Damn them

Jagat Prakash Nadda @JPNadda
When Hon PM Modi stands strong with the citizens of West Bengal in wake of cyclone Yaas, Mamata ji should also set aside her ego for the welfare of people

SC directs states to take care of Covid orphans

District administrators to upload list & other data on NCPCR website by this evening

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

EXPRESSING concern over the fact many children in the country have been orphaned in the devastating Covid-19 pandemic, the Supreme Court on Friday directed state authorities to immediately identify them and provide relief.

A vacation bench of Justices LN Rao and Aniruddha Bose told district administrators to make a list in their areas and upload data on the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) website by Saturday evening.

The direction came on an application filed by amicus curiae Gaurav Agrawal, in the pending suo motu case seeking identification of children orphaned due to Covid-19 or otherwise, and providing them immediate relief through the state governments.

The bench said state governments must inform it of the position of these children and the steps they have taken to provide them immediate relief. "We have read somewhere that in Maharashtra over 2,900 children have lost one or both parents due to Covid-19. We don't have an exact number of such children. We cannot even imagine how many such children in this large country have got orphaned due to this devastating pandemic," the bench said, while asking authorities not to wait for further orders.

It said that district administrators should upload the latest data of orphaned children on the website 'Baal Swaraj' of NCPCR by Saturday evening. "We are of the opinion that the Centre and states shall get the latest information on the identification of children, who have lost one or both the parents due to pandemic, and the steps taken to attend to their basic needs," the court said. The next hearing is on June 1.

Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Centre, said the government has already issued an advisory to the states to ensure that children orphaned or in need are taken care of. She said the NCPCR has already developed a portal and is tracking such children who got orphaned due to the pandemic.

India supports probe into origin of virus

PUSHKAR BANAKAR @New Delhi

INDIA on Friday said it is in favour of further probe into the origin of Covid-19 and sought the cooperation of China for the same.

India's reaction comes days after US President Joe Biden asked intelligence agencies to submit a fresh report on the issue. The move has irked China, which said that the US is playing politics, and dismissed theories that the virus has originated from a lab.

"The WHO convened global study on the origin of Covid-19 is an important first step. It stressed the need for next phase studies as also for further data and studies to reach robust conclusions. The follow up of the WHO report and further studies deserve the understanding and cooperation of all," Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said.

The US President had asked the intelligence community earlier this week to double their efforts to collect and analyse information that could bring people closer to a definitive conclusion, and to report back in 90 days.

In January and February, a team from the WHO which spent around four weeks in and around Wuhan, came to the conclusion that the virus had probably been transmitted from bats to humans and that introduction of the virus was an extremely unlikely pathway. Interestingly, the team was not allowed to visit the Wuhan Institute of Virology, the place where theories claim that the virus was cultivated.

WHO is currently reviewing the recommendations in this report to prepare a proposal for its director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, on the studies to be done in future.

Takes 120 days to ready a batch, says Bharat Biotech on delay in availability

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA @New Delhi

UNDER fire for slow and delayed availability of its Covid-19 vaccine Covaxin, Bharat Biotech on Friday said it takes about 120 days for one batch to complete the process of manufacturing, testing and release.

For instance, a batch under production in March will be available for supply only in June. The government has been claiming that nearly two crore doses of this vaccine is being produced in India now, but far lower numbers are available for the beneficiaries.

Data on the vaccination dashboard run by the Centre shows that of a total 20,43,91,365 doses administered, only 22,107,737 or just about 10% has been Covaxin, country's only indigenously developed coronavirus vaccine so far.

"The timeline for manufacturing, testing and release for

a batch of Covaxin is approximately 120 days, depending on the technology framework and regulatory guidelines to be met," said Bharat Biotech. Thus, production batches of Covaxin initiated in March will be ready for supply only during the month of June.

Shortage of vaccines in India has been a major problem but scarcity of Covaxin has drawn more attention, leading to calls for compulsory licensing to other companies. The company, however, insisted that the process is complex.

For vaccines to reach the people, highly coordinated efforts are required from international supply chains, manufacturers, regulators and state and Central government agencies, it said. Bharat Biotech also maintained that production scale-up is a step-by-step process, involving several regulatory SOPs of good manufacturing practices.

The firm also said that all vaccines supplied in the country are mandated by law to be submitted for testing and release to the Central Drugs Laboratory under the government and all batches of vaccines supplied to the states are based on the allocation framework received from the Centre.

HANDS WE RELY ON

Doctors and their assistants tend to a Covid-19 positive child at Jawaharlal Nehru hospital in Ajmer on Friday | PTI

Ramdev challenged to debate by IMA

VINEET UPADHYAY @Dehradun

IN response to yoga guru Baba Ramdev's remark calling allopathic system a stupid science, the Uttarakhand chapter of Indian Medical Association on Friday challenged him for an open debate on a public platform in the presence of the media over the 25 questions raised by him relating to Ayurveda.

In a letter on Friday, it said Ramdev should be ready to face questions from IMA experts. "This is to inform you that IMA UA State through its state office requests you to constitute a team of qualified and duly registered Ayurvedacharyas from Patanjali Yogpeeth to have a one-on-one with a team of doctors of IMA UA State. This discussion shall be closely supervised and recorded by the media," said the letter.

The letter further stated that Ramdev and his aide Balkrishna can also join the team but only as spectators because till now they have not sent the qualification to the state office of the IMA.

"Responsibility is on you to decide the date and time of the proposed discussion. However, the venue shall be decided by us. The proposal is for your kind consideration and implementation at the earliest to ensure that the deadlock and confusion created by you end," it said, adding that the discussion would "ensure restoration of harmony between Allopathic & Ayurved sciences which was disturbed by your rash and irresponsible statement."

The IMA, in another letter also demanded a list of hospitals where thousands of patients experienced the effective impact of products of Patanjali Yogpeeth. "I request you to provide the list to IMA UA office immediately, so that it can be confirmed whether your studies have some rational base," said the letter.

Earlier, the IMA had written to the Prime Minister urging him to stop "misinformation campaign" by Baba Ramdev and take appropriate action against him.

'Near home' inoculation centres for the elderly

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

'NEAR to home' vaccination centres will benefit around 14 crore senior citizens and 2.2 crore differently-abled people, said Union Minister of state for Social Justice and Empowerment Rattan Lal Kataria on Friday.

This ministry had earlier flagged the problems faced by persons with disabilities in testing, treatment and vaccination to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is committed to the cause of weaker sections of society and other vulnerable groups, said Kataria.

The ministry has launched a helpline number to provide psychological support to people belonging to the transgender community. Counselling is available for transgender persons who are facing stress owing to the pandemic.

The ministry has also announced a one-time subsistence allowance of ₹1,500 for transgender persons who are adversely affected by the lockdown. The financial assistance, as an interim relief measure, was also extended last year to around 7,000 transgender people.

Kataria said the ministry had urged state governments to spread awareness among the transgender community in vernacular languages.

SALINE GARGLE RT-PCR

Nagpur institute claims its virus test produces results in three hours

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

THE Nagpur-based National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) has developed a 'Saline Gargle RT-PCR' method for testing Covid-19 samples that can provide results in three hours.

The method offers a bunch of benefits. It's simple, fast, cost-effective, patient-friendly and comfortable. It also offers instant results and is well-suited for rural and tribal areas, given minimal infrastructure requirements.

Krishna Khairnar, Senior Scientist, Environmental Virology Cell of NEERI, says: "Swab collection method requires time. Moreover, since it is an invasive technique, it is a bit uncomfortable for patients. Time is lost also in the transport of samples to collection centres. On the other hand, the Saline Gargle RT-PCR method is instant, comfortable and patient-friendly. Sampling is done instantly and results will be generated within 3 hours."

In this method, a patient can collect the sample. Collection methods like nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal swab collection require technical expertise and time. The Saline Gargle method uses a simple collection tube filled with saline solution. The patient gargles the solution and rinses it inside the tube. This sample in the collection tube is taken to the laboratory where it is kept at room temperature, in a special buffer solution prepared by NEERI.

An RNA template is produced when this solution is heated, which is further processed for Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR). This method of collecting and processing the sample enables to save on the otherwise costly infrastructural requirement of RNA extraction. People can also test themselves, since this method allows self-sampling.

The scientists expect that this innovative testing technique will be especially beneficial for rural and tribal areas, where infrastructure requirements can be a constraint. The new technique has received the approval of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). NEERI has further been asked to train other testing labs, to help scale up its adoption across the country.

Looking forward to use at national level

Krishna Khairnar hopes this method is implemented at the national level. "Scientists, researchers & lab-technicians of the Environmental Virology Cell have taken painstaking efforts to develop this patient-friendly technique," he says.

EXPRESS READ

'Floral discharge' for resilient Kota patient

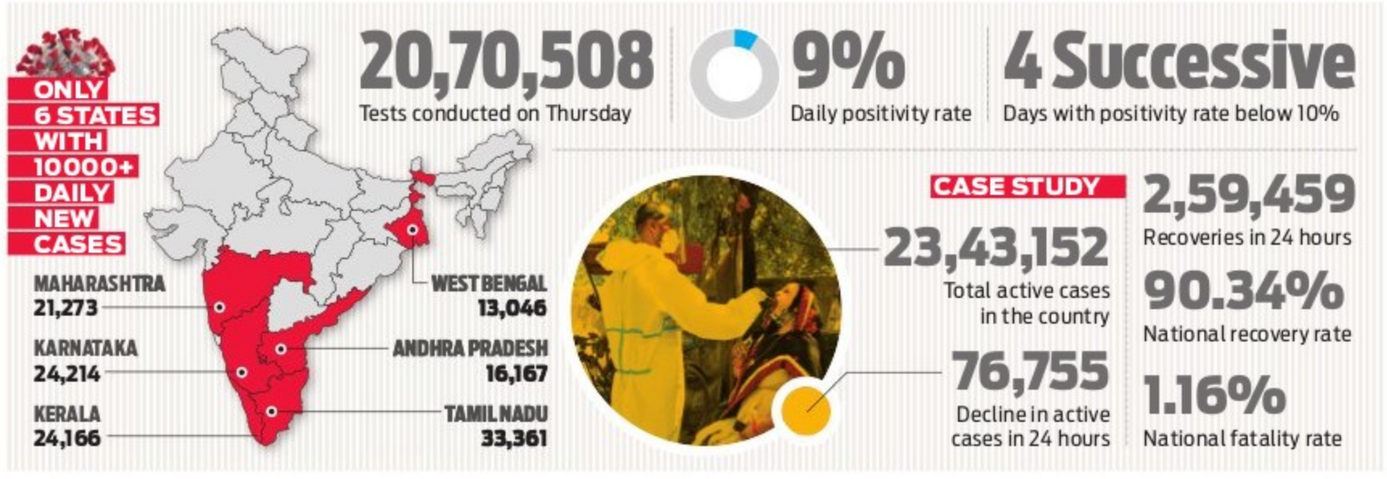
JAIPUR: Medical staff at a Kota hospital showered petals on a 27-year-old Covid patient while she was being discharged after spending 32 days in the hospital. Rupali Srivatsava was on ventilator support for 28 days and her resilience has become a talk of the town. She was diagnosed positive on April 21 and hospitalised on April 26.

Maha: No final exam for Class X students

MUMABI: Maharashtra Education department on Friday announced that class 10 students in the state would be promoted without final exams. Out of the 100 marks, 50 will be from practical and internal assessment while the rest will be based on class 9 score and overall performance.

37L rural households screened in Punjab

CHANDIGARH: As many as 37 lakh rural households in Punjab have been screened for Covid-19 under the state's Mission Fateh 2.0 as part of the 'Corona Mukt Punjab Abhiyan'. Around 4,000 people, including 191 pregnant women, were found positive during the process even as the positivity rate in rural Punjab remained at 4 per cent.



Pakistani Hindu migrants in Rajasthan can take shots

RAJESH ASNANI @Jaipur

PAKISTANI Hindu migrants in Rajasthan can get their Covid vaccine shots, the Centre has assured the Rajasthan High Court. The Centre said vaccines will be made available for them at the request of the state administration in accordance with the SOP. This newspaper had earlier written about the plight of Pakistani migrants.

The HC took cognizance of media reports and the submission filed by amicus curiae Sajjan Sigh Rathore, which said the Hindu migrants could not get the vaccine as they did not possess Aadhaar card. The court had asked the state and Central governments to respond to the submissions. The HC ordered the state government to provide food to the migrants living in the state.

On Friday, AAG KS Rajpurohit, appearing on behalf of the state government before a bench of Justices Vijay Vishnoi and Rameshwar Vyas, said the status of the vaccine was not yet clear in the guidelines issued by the Centre. The court observed that the SOP on Covid vaccination of persons not in possession of identity cards through the CoWin app issued by the Centre is elaborate. In no way, the Pakistani migrants could be excluded for vaccination, the bench observed.

The ASG said after receiving the requisite information from state and district administration, vaccines will be provided to these Hindu migrants from the other side of the border.

CONGRESS AND BJP LOCKED IN VERBAL WAR ON VACCINATION

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

THE war of words between Congress and BJP goes on. On Friday, Rahul Gandhi held Prime Minister Narendra Modi responsible for the second wave of Covid-19 in the country. Taking a potshot, Union minister Prakash Javdekar said the Congress leader was going by his 'toolkit manual' while making these allegations.

Calling the PM as an event manager, Gandhi said: "There is no vaccination strategy. The Prime Minister doesn't think strategically. He is an event manager, he thinks one event at a time. You don't need events now as events will kill ations. You need a strategy with an aim to shut the space for corona."

Gandhi added that India has vaccinated only 3% of its people, while the US and Brazil have inoculated 50% and

8-10%, respectively.

"The PM is responsible for the second wave of the virus, it is the result of his theatrics and the lack of his responsibility. It is time for the PM to be a leader and display leadership skills and courage and come out with excuses and blame others. The buck stops at the PM," he said.

"I am again requesting the Government. Get your vaccination strategy in order. Do not give the virus space to mutate. It is going to kill again. Lockdown is a temporary solution. The moment you open the lockdown, the virus will prepare itself and I guarantee you at 3 per cent vaccination we are going to get a third wave," he added.

Javdekar said the Congress leader's press conference was straight out of the party's toolkit. "People know well that Gandhi's presser was as per the toolkit." BJP has been alleging that Congress has been working on the basis of a toolkit to build campaign against the government and PM Modi. The minister objected to Gandhi's use of the term *nautanki,* saying it's an insult to the country.

Javdekar said 216 crore vaccines will be available by December this year to ensure vaccination of 108 crore people in the country. He hit out at the former chief of the Congress. "India will get 216 crore new vaccines by December, which will given to 108 crore people. Rahul Gandhi shouldn't indulge in fearmongering. India is second fastest on vaccination."

CAR RUNS OVER LEOPARD

A manhunt was underway for two people who allegedly tried to flee with the carcass of a leopard as it died after being hit by their car in West Bengal's Alipurduar district, officials said on Friday.

3 HELD FOR ATTACKING JUNIOR ENGG IN U.P'S SHAMLI DISTRICT

	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	39	27	Mumbai	32	28
Bhopal	41	27	Panaji	34	27
Jaipur	41	30	Patna	29	24
Amritsar	42	27	Lucknow	30	25
Chennai	36	28	Port Blair	30	25
Kolkata	34	28	Imphal	32	22
Srinagar	30	13	Chandigarh	39	27

Centre invites petition for citizenship from non-Muslim migrants

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

THE Centre on Friday invited applications for Indian citizenship from non-Muslims immigrants from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan, living in 13 districts of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Haryana and Punjab.

The Union home ministry issued a notification in this effect for immediate implementation of the order under the Citizenship Act 1955 and Rules framed under the law in 2009 even though the rules under the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) enacted in 2019 are yet to be framed by the government.

There were widespread protests in different parts of the country when the CAA was enacted in 2019 with many terming the law as "discriminatory" and "anti-Muslim".

Under the CAA, Indian citizenship will be given to persecuted non-Muslim minorities from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan—Hindu, Sikh, Jain, Buddhist, Parsi and Christian—who had come to India until December 31, 2014. "In exercise of powers conferred under Section 16 of the Citizenship Act, 1955 (57 of 1955), the central government hereby directs that powers exercisable by it for registration as citizen of India under Section 5, or for grant of certificate of naturalisation under section 6 of the Citizenship Act 1955 in respect of any person belonging to minority community in Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan namely, Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians, residing in the districts mentioned and the states mentioned below....," the notification said.

"The application for registration as citizen of India or grant of certificate of naturalisation as citizen of India under the said rules (Citizenship Rules, 2009) shall be made by the applicant online," stated the notification.

People who are eligible to apply for Indian citizenship are those currently living in the districts of Morbi, Rajkot, Patan and Vadodara of Gujarat, Durg and Balodabazar in Chhattisgarh, Jalore, Udaipur, Pali, Barmer and Sirohi in Rajasthan, Faridabad in Haryana and Jalandhar in Punjab.

TMC MLAs and ex-Kolkata mayor get bail

Calcutta HC rejects CBI plea that the four accused in the Naradra sting operation will tamper evidence if out on bail

PRANAB MONDAL @Kolkata

THE Calcutta High Court on Friday granted bail to the three TMC MLAs and a former mayor of Kolkata arrested in connection with the Narada sting operation.

In granting bail, a five-judge bench of the court rejected the CBI's argument that they are influential persons, who can tamper with evidence.

The court reminded the Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta, who appeared for the central agency, that the CBI started investigation four years ago and the accused were influential back then.

"We have an observation. The investigation started four years ago. Why the CBI did not arrest the accused in the past four years? They were influential when the probe was going on. Generally, the accused are arrested for the sake of investigation. When the agency did not feel the need to arrest them, why does it now wants to keep the accused in custody after submitting the charge sheet against them?" asked Justice Arijit Banerjee.

Under the terms of the bail, the accused are not allowed to talk to the media on pending cases against them. The court has also ordered that they must not tamper with evidence or try to influence the witnesses.

They have been directed to furnish bail bonds of ₹2 lakh with two sureties of like amount.

The four have also been directed to appear before the CBI for interrogation as and when required, though this can be done virtually in light of the pandemic.

Firhad Hakkim

Subrata Mukherjee

Madan Mitra

We have an observation. The investigation started four years ago. Why the CBI did not arrest the accused in past four years? They were influential when the probe was going on.

Calcutta High Court

Two TMC ministers—Firhad Hakim and Subrata Mukherjee— party MLA Madan Mitra and former mayor of Kolkata Sovan Chatterjee were arrested by the CBI from their residences on May 17, the day the central agency filed charge-sheets against the four.

As the news of their arrest spread, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee rushed to the CBI's office in Nizam Palace, Kolkata and staged a dharna.

The Narada sting tapes, which were made public before the 2016 assembly elections in West Bengal, were claimed to have been shot in 2014, wherein people resembling TMC ministers, MPs and MLAs were allegedly seen receiving money from representatives of a fictitious company in lieu of favours.

Judge questions HC's handling of Narada case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi/Kolkata

A sitting judge of Calcutta High Court wrote a letter to the all judges of court questioning the handling of the interim bail order of three Trinamool Congress MLAs and the CBI's plea challenging the order.

The letter comes days after the Supreme Court too had criticised the High Court over its handling of the case.

"Our conduct is unbecoming of the majesty the High Court commands. We have been reduced to a mockery. As such, I am requesting all of us to salvage the situation by taking such steps, including convening a Full Court, if necessary, for the purpose of re-affirming sanctity of our rules and our unwritten code of conduct," the judge wrote in the letter.

Justice Sinha alleges that the CBI's e-mail asking for the Narada case to be transferred out of Bengal was wrongly listed by the Calcutta High Court before a division bench comprising two judges instead of a single judge.

The letter dated May 24, mentioned a series of questions on the procedural gaps in admitting the CBI's plea.

The judge also mentioned that the accused continued to be in custody though they had obtained bail from designated court. He also raised question on the procedure in assigning the CBI's plea to a bench headed by the acting chief justice.

"Whether the high court exercising power in the matter of transfer of a criminal case, at that stage, on its own initiative, could have passed the order for stay, is the second question," he wrote. Justice Sinha wrote in his letter that the CBI's transfer plea should have been heard by a single judge and should not have been treated as a writ petition as there was "no substantial question of law related to the constitution."

DOMESTIC AIR FARES RAISED

New Delhi: Domestic air travel is set to become costlier as the Civil Aviation Ministry on Friday raised the lower limit on fares by 13 to 16 per cent. The increase in airfares will come into effect from June 1, it said. The upper limits on fares remain unchanged. The government has raised the lower limits to help the airlines amid a devastating second wave of Covid-19, which has reduced air travel significantly. India had imposed lower and upper limits on airfares based on flight duration when services were resumed on May 25 last year after a two-month lockdown. On Friday, the official order said the lower limit for flights under 40 minutes of duration will be increased from ₹2,300 to ₹2,600—an increase of 13 per cent.

HC okays pvt hosp care for Fr Swamy

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Mumbai

THE Bombay High Court on Friday directed the Maharashtra government to transfer jailed Father Stan Swamy to Holy Family Hospital in Bandra. The 84-year-old Jesuit priest is an accused in the Bhima Koregaon case and is lodged in Taloja Central Jail in Navi Mumbai.

A vacation bench comprising Justices SS Shinde and NR Borkar heard the matter on an urgent basis on Friday.

The bench allowed Father Frazer Francis Mascarenhas SJ, a retired Principal of St Xaviers College, to visit Swamy at the Holy Family Hospital, subject to hospital's protocols.

Father Stan Swamy

Besides, the court also directed the hospital to allow one police constable in the premises to protect/guard Swamy, since he is an under-trial prisoner.

Swamy will be treated at Holy Family Hospital for two weeks, sources said.

According to the plea by Swamy, he is suffering from various ailments, including Parkinson's Disease, loss of hearing, abdominal pain, as well as injury to his arms.

Additional Solicitor General(ASG) Anil Singh, appearing for the National Investigation Agency said Father Swamy should be shifted to a government hospital and not a private hospital.

The court brushed aside the objections raised by the state government as well as the probe agency NIA.

At the earlier hearing, Ft Swamy told the court that while he was examined by doctors at the JJ Hospital, he was not given a chance to explain his complaints. He emphasised that his health had deteriorated a lot in the last eight months in jail, and now, he is not able to perform daily activities such as walking, writing, and bathing without assistance.

U.P. TRAGEDY

14 killed after consuming spurious liquor

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Lucknow

AT least 14 people from three villages of Uttar Pradesh's Aligarh district died since Thursday night after consuming spurious liquor. Fifteen others under treatment, some in critical conditions, at two hospitals.

According to the additional director general of police (ADG-Agra Zone) Rajiv Krishna, who visited Aligarh district after the incident, "Four men, including one of the three key accused Anil Chaudhary have been arrested, while other accused, among them the two other key accused Rishi Sharma and Vipin Yadav are on the run. A bounty of ₹50,000 each has been placed on the arrest of the two absconding key accused."

As many as six police teams have been formed to investigate the incident and arrest the absconding accused, he added.

As per the instructions of chief minister Yogi Adityanath, Gangster Act and NSA proceedings will be initiated against those accused in the incident, DIG-Aligarh Deepak Kumar said.

The three key accused, Anil Chaudhary, Rishi Sharma and Vipin Yadav are reportedly influential people in the district. They control most of the licensed liquor vends in the West UP district, through financial investments.

Three excise department officers, including the district excise officer, an excise inspector, and a constable have been suspended.

Five licensed liquor vends near the affected villages have been sealed and samples have been sent for lab analysis.

Congress sets up panel to quell dissent in Punjab

CONGRESS president Sonia Gandhi on Friday set up a three-member committee to resolve differences among its leaders in Punjab amid an open war of words between Chief Minister Amarinder Singh and his former cabinet colleague Navjot Singh Sidhu.

The panel comprising of Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge as chairman, with AICC general secretary in-charge for Punjab affairs Harish Rawat and J P Aggarwal will meet for the first time on Saturday morning at the party headquarters here.

The committee comes in the wake of infighting and factionalism within the Punjab unit of the Congress ahead of 2022 assembly elections in the state.

Sources said the panel was formed by Sonia Gandhi late last night but was not announced publicly.

Confirming the development, Rawat said the panel is tasked with the twin objectives of strengthening the party and government in Punjab and resolving differences within the party leaders in the state.

"Our primary mandate is to strengthen the government and the party at the grassroots level and to help unite the Congress in Punjab and ensure its victory in the 2022 assembly polls," Rawat said. He said the three leaders will meet on Saturday at the AICC headquarters to work out modalities on how to go about fulfilling its objectives.

"We would be talking to former party presidents and other key leaders in Punjab on how to strengthen the party and resolve any differences among state leaders," the former Uttarakhand chief minister said.

Amarinder Singh and Sidhu have been at loggerheads in the recent past and Sidhu has publicly criticised the chief minister. "We will urge the leaders in Punjab not to air their grievances against each other in public and in the media, and instead raise their issues within the party forums," he said. *PTI*

Our primary mandate is to strengthen the government and the party at the grassroots level and to help unite the Congress in Punjab and ensure its victory in the 2022 assembly polls

Harish Rawat,AICC general secretary in-charge for Punjab

GATHERING STORM

A dust storm engulfs the skyline of the walled city of Jaipur on Friday | PTI

EXPRESS READ

NCB arrests actor Sushant's flatmate

Mumbai: The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has arrested Siddhartha Pithani, a flatmate of Sushant Singh Rajput, in a drug case linked to the Bollywood actor's death last year, an official said on Friday. Pithani was arrested from Hyderabad and produced in a special court in Mumbai which sent him in the NCB custody till June 1. Pithani was Rajput's friend and was staying with him.

Farmers begin 3-day protest in Punjab

Patiala: Bharatiya Kisan Union (Ekta Ugrahan) on Friday began a three-day protest in Patiala, Chief Minister Amarinder Singh's home constituency, over the state government's alleged failure to tackle the coronavirus pandemic.One of the largest farmers' unions in Punjab, BKU (Ekta Ugrahan) also hit out at the Centre for allegedly failing to deal with the Covid situation.

US proposes infrastructure-focused Quad summit

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

THE United States is looking to conduct an in-person summit of leaders of Quad countries—India, US, Japan and Australia—with a focus on infrastructure, US President Joe Biden's policy advisor on Indo-Pacific Kurt Campbell said.

"We want to look this fall to convene an in-person Quad and the hope will be to make a similar kind of engagement on infrastructure more generally. And I do want to underscore this is not a fancy club. If there are other countries that believe that they'd like to engage and work with us, the door will be open as we go forward," he said at a virtual event hosted by Stanford University.

The first-ever Quad summit was held virtually in March.

The four-nation grouping is widely seen as a counterweight to China's growing influence in the Indo-Pacific region.

Campbell said there was now a new set of strategic parameters in place for China, and a period that had been broadly described as "engagement" has come to an end.

"The dominant paradigm is going to be competition. Our goal is to make that a stable, peaceful competition that brings out the best in us," he said. "There will likely be periods ahead, in which there will be moments of concern," he warned.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Friday held talks with US officials on a range of subjects, including Quad cooperation.

PRANAB MONDAL
Our correspondent in West Bengal
pranabm@newindianexpress.com

KOLKATA DIARY

Stadium turned into Covid Care Centre

A stadium in Barrackpore in North 24 Parganas district has been converted into a satellite Covid-19 treatment facility of the Nehru Memorial Techno Global Hospital. The centre has onsite doctors and nurses to monitor the patients. Other facilities include oxygen administration, including high-flow support, and X-ray. It facility is primarily for patients from Barrackpore, Khardah, Titagarh and nearby areas. The centre started with 35 beds and will add another 35 beds in a week and a further 30 by June 7. The initiative was taken after Barrackpore MLA Raj Chakrabarty approached the Nehru Memorial Techno Global Hospital and suggested converting the stadium as a treatment facility.

Don Bosco School opens classrooms for Covid care

Don Bosco School in Park Circus has opened up its classroom for treatment of Covid-19 patients. A 30-bed facility has been set up in a classroom on the ground floor of the building. The facility has beds with oxygen support. "As of now schools are closed and we are not sure when we will be able to reopen the campus. When we have the space and facilities, we thought we should make it available for medical service and reach out to the needy," said an official of the school. Doctors among the parents of the school's present and previous students are working together with the school management to dispense Covid care. West Bengal on Thursday extended the Covid lockdown till June 15.

Higher secondary exams by July-end

Due to the pandemic, the state education board has decided to push higher secondary (Class XII) exams to the last week of July and secondary (Class X) exams to the second week of August. Exams will only be held for the main papers at home centres (the school that the student attends). Exams won't be conducted for additional papers. The Central boards—CBSE and he Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations—are yet to announce the date for the Class XII exams. Both boards are set to review the pandemic situation in the first week of June.

Free tutorial on digital platforms for children

Students of Ramakrishna Mission Vidyamandira in Belur will offer free tutorials on digital platforms to under-privileged students from Class III to VIII six days a week, according to a plan drawn up by the college. According to a notice issued by the college authorities, classes will be held from 7 am to 8 pm in Bengali, English, Social Studies, History, Geography, Mathematics, Science and Environmental Science. A detailed schedule has been uploaded on the Facebook page of the college. YouTube links for the different classes have been uploaded too.

16%
increase to WHO's proposed budget for the next two years approved, setting it at about $6.1 billion

GLOBAL WEATHER
LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	28	15	SNY	Los Angeles	23	15	LC
Colombo	30	27	LC	Melbourne	13	3	LC
Dhaka	35	27	LC	Moscow	19	10	HR
Dubai	39	29	SNY	New York	13	10	LR
Houston	26	20	TDS	Singapore	31	27	TDS
Istanbul	21	15	HR	Toronto	15	9	LC
London	21	8	LC	Washington	14	9	HR

Biden pitches $6 trillion budget to 'reimagine' American economy

Blames Oppn parties and dissident faction of ruling CPN-UML for dissolution of Parliament

WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Joe Biden on Friday proposed a $6 trillion budget to "reimagine" the US economy and stave off Chinese competition, though driving the United States into record debt — and with Congress first needing to give approval. Announcing the proposed spending, Biden said a post-pandemic United States "cannot afford to simply return to the way things were before."

"We must seize the moment to reimagine and rebuild a new American economy," he said.

The president's annual budget is more a wish list or a message on his priorities than anything else. Congress ultimately decides what money goes where and the current Congress has only the narrowest Democratic majority. Opposition Republicans are leery of any big new role for the central government.

Even some of Biden's supporters warn that an economy already set to roar back from the Covid-19 shutdown risks getting swept up into an inflationary spiral. But the massive plan signals the White House's determination to put hard numbers on Biden's campaign to rethink the relationship between government and business in what he says is an existential contest with China.

Under the Biden blueprint, the federal spigot would unleash $6.011 trillion in 2022, with increases gradually rising to $8.2 trillion in 2031. Debt as a percentage of annual GDP would be expected to quickly surpass the level seen at the end of World War II.

US President Joe Biden speaks about the progress in the fight against Covid-19, at an event in Alexandria, Virginia, on Friday | AFP

The Democrat made clear where the lion's share of that expected $6 trillion price tag should go. One huge chunk would be an infrastructure bill originally proposed at $2.3 trillion but since whittled down to $1.7 trillion in negotiations with Congress. Another $1.8 trillion would go on increased state-funded education and social services — all, Biden argues, part of building a better 21st century workforce.

The overall aim, Biden said, is to grow the US middle class, while positioning "the United States to out-compete our rivals." The budget proposal is being unveiled just ahead of the long Memorial Day weekend and with Congress heading out on a week's recess.

The timing may dampen the immediate furor on Capitol Hill where many Democrats want Biden to use his control of Congress to push transformational legislation but Republicans are playing hardball in trying to block most of what the president proposes. *AFP*

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No.: ESIS/ECS/03/2021-22 Date: 28.05.2021

SEALED QUOTATION NOTIFICATION

Sealed quotations are invited for supply of Various Drugs Consumables, Disposable items, Lab Instruments / Chemicals / reagents and Equipments for all ESI Hospitals DCHC/CCC for a period of 06 months.

Sl. No.	Notification No. and Date	Details	Format details, Contact address and Website details	Sealed Quotation Approximate Amount in Rs.	Last date for Sealed quotation and submission address
1	ESIS/ECS/ 03/2021-22 Dt: 28-05-2021	Sealed quotations for supply of Various Drugs Consumables, Disposable items, Lab Instruments / Chemicals / reagents and Equipments for all ESI Hospitals DCHC/ CCC for a period of 06 months.	Directorate of E.S.I.S. Medical Services, S. Nijalingappa Road, Rajajinagar 2nd Block, Bangalore - 560010 https://esisms.karnataka.gov.in	Rs. 30,00,00,000/-	Dt: 07.06.2021 Within 4:30 PM at Directorate of E.S.I.S. Medical Services, S. Nijalingappa Road, Rajajinagar 2nd Block, Bangalore - 560010

DIPR/DDU/LC/431/2021-22
Sd/-, Director
ESIS Medical Services

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

QuoteExpress
YOU CAN'T WAIT FOR INSPIRATION. YOU HAVE TO GO AFTER IT WITH A CLUB
› JACK LONDON

Supporters of Syrian President Bashar Assad hold up national flags and his pictures as they celebrate at Omayyad Square, in Damascus | AP/PTI

Syria's Assad wins a fourth term in predictable landslide

DAMASCUS

SYRIAN President Bashar Assad was re-elected in a landslide, officials have said, ushering in a fourth seven-year term in the war-torn country following an election described as illegitimate and a sham by the West and his opposition.

Assad's win was not in doubt, in an election where officials said 18 million were eligible to vote. But in the country ravaged by the 10-year-old conflict, areas controlled by rebels or Kurdish-led troops did not hold the vote. At least 8 million, mostly displaced, live in those areas in northwest and northeast Syria. Over 5 million refugees, mostly living in neighbouring countries, have largely refrained from casting their ballots.

US and European officials have also questioned the legitimacy of the election, saying it violates UN resolutions in place to resolve the conflict, lacks any international monitoring, and is unrepresentative of all Syrians.

Syria's parliament speaker, Hammoud Sabbagh, announced the final results from Wednesday's vote. He said Assad garnered 95.1 per cent of the votes. He said turnout stood at 78.6 per cent of the voters, in an election that lasted for 17 hours on Wednesday with no independent monitors.

Assad was facing symbolic competition from two candidates — a former minister and a former opposition figure.

Assad's victory comes as the country is still devastated by the conflict. Fighting has subsided but the war is not over. An economic crisis is getting worse in a country where over 80 per cent of the population lives below the poverty line and the local currency is in a free fall. Assad, close associates and government officials are facing widening Western sanctions, added to already existing ones that have escalated as the war unfolded. European and US governments blame Assad and his aides most of the war's atrocities.

Meanwhile, Damascus erupted in celebrations, with gunfire and fireworks lighting the night sky. Thousands gathered in major squares in Damascus, and the coastal city of Tartus, dancing while waving flags and pictures of Assad. They chanted: "With our soul, blood, we defend you Bashar," and "We only choose three: God, Syria and Bashar." A large stage was set in the capital's Omayyad Square, with speakers blaring national songs. *AP*

Nepal PM Oli calls upon parties to form all-party govt, hold elections

KATHMANDU

EMBATTLED Nepal Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli on Friday urged all political parties to form an all-party government and hold fresh elections, as he tried to justify the controversial dissolution of the House of Representatives twice by the President, saying a "functionless" Parliament turned out to be the main source of instability in the country.

"To go for a fresh mandate of the people is not retrogression but a democratic process," said Oli in a televised address to the nation, a week after the House was dissolved by President Bidya Devi Bhandari.

The president dissolved the 275-member House of Representatives on Saturday for the second time in five months and announced snap polls on November 12 and November 19 on the advice of Oli.

Addressing the nation as the chief executive of the country, Oli took most of his time to criticise the moves taken by the Opposition parties. He blamed the Opposition parties and dissident faction of the ruling CPN-UML for the dissolution of Parliament. He blamed his party's rival group for blocking his attempts to consolidate democracy and to take the nation to the path of socio-economic transformation. Oli said Parliament could not ensure stability in the country even after it was restored on February 23 through judicial intervention.

"Though it was reinstated through the Supreme Court's verdict, it turned out to be functionless and the main source of instability in the country," said Oli. He claimed that he tried to prevent the lower house of Parliament from being dissolved.

"I made my last ditch effort to form an alternative government as per Article 76 (5) after being assured of support from Janata Samajbadi Party. However, Opposition parties forced president to dismiss their claim for a government,' he said. *PTI*

'BORDER ISSUES WILL BE RESOLVED DIPLOMATICALLY'

Kathmandu: Nepal Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli on Friday said the outstanding issues relating to the border issue with India will be resolved through diplomatic channels on the basis of historical accords, maps and factual documents. Oli said Nepal's intern-ational relations will be based on mutual benefit and honour to each other. India-Nepal bilateral ties came under strain after Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated a 80-km road connecting Lipulekh pass with Dharchula in Uttarakhand on May 8 last year. PTI

EXPRESS READ

French man killed after attacking three cops

Paris: A man with severe schizophrenia who had been on a watch list for Islamic radicalism stabbed a police officer at her station on Friday in western France and shot two other officers before police killed him, authorities said. The slain suspect was a Frenchman in his 40s who had been on a watch list for Islamic radicalism because of his "rigorous" religious practices, Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin said. The assailant had recently been released from prison and was under monitoring by psychiatric services, he said. The three officers were wounded but none is in life-threatening condition, the minister said.

French man killed after attacking three cops

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Hong Kong tycoon gets jail over 2019 protest

Hong Kong: Hong Kong media tycoon and outspoken pro-democracy activist Jimmy Lai was sentenced to more jail time on Friday over his role in an anti-government protest in 2019, as authorities step up a crackdown on dissent in the city. Lai and nine others were charged with incitement to take part in an unauthorised assembly when they walked down a road with thousands of residents on October 1, 2019, to protest against dwindling political freedoms in Hong Kong. All 10 pleaded guilty to holding unauthorised assembly.

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Contact No: 080-61451201

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the general public that, We IDBI Bank Limited (IDBI Bank) had ,as per the IDBI Bank at Mumbai standard procedure/Bank's policy, forwarded the original property documents deposited with IDBI Bank, by below mentioned clients, to the centralized depository viz Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited (SHCIL) at Mumbai for safe keeping (the said consignment) ,through First Flight Courier Ltd (courier company) in February, 2019. However, the said courier company failed to deliver the said consignment at the aforesaid address and did not issue any communication to IDBI Bank mentioning the reasons for non delivery of the said consignment . Pursuant to which, although several enquiries were made by IDBI Bank to contact the officials of the courier company to trace out the said consignment, which remained undelivered, all attempts made by IDBI Bank turned futile since none of the officials including key managerial persons of the courier company were traceable or contactable and also it came to IDBI Bank's knowledge through market resources that the said courier company had closed down its business. The said closing of the courier company was done without discharging the duty entrusted to it by IDBI Bank (delivery of the said consignment) and also without giving any notice to IDBI Bank. IDBI Bank again made several attempts to trace the consignment, but has not been able to trace out the said consignment till now. This is to inform the public that as the documents were not traceable even after several attempts/enquires made by IDBI Bank and appeared to have been misplaced by the courier company, IDBI Bank immediately approached the jurisdictional police authorities requesting them to lodge the FIR against the courier company and help IDBI Bank to locate the said consignment and accordingly the below mentioned complaints were filed by the Bank and the matter is under investigation.
(i) The FIR vide Crime No. 0018/2020 before the Police Station, Yelahanka New Town which I registered and Private Complaint filed before the IV ACMM, Bangalore vide PCR No. 14818/2019(for Cases from SL No 01 to 13)
(ii) The FIR Vide Crime No 0018/2020 before the Police Station, Malleshwarm which is also registered and Private compliant filled before the IV ACMM, Bangalore Vide PCR No 1417/2019(for Case SL No 14)

The details of Clients whose Original Property Documents are not delivered by the Courier Company and the documents involved are as given below.

Sl No	Customer Name	Property Address	Schedule of Property	Details of the documents
01	Shri. Lakshmeesha Gowda M N & Shri. Kumar M N	No 9, House List 567,Katha 376. Bagalugunte House Building Coop,T Dasarahalli Bangalore 560057	East: Property No 22, West: Road, North: Property No 08, South: Property No 10.	1) Sale Deed No 5873/1981-82,9548/2001-02 2) Regd Discharge Deed Executed By The Pragathi Co-Op Bank Ltd 3) Gift Deed Dtd 24.03.17 Vide Doc No 1-05110/2016-17 4) Possession Certificate Dtd 18.02.1982 5) Katha Certificate Dtd 22-07-2017 6) Katha Endorsement Dtd 22-07-2017 7) Sale Deed Doc No 3701/07-08 Dtd 27-02-2009. 8) Doc No 1891/2016-2017 Dtd 05-08-2016 For Cancellation Of Sale Agreement.
02	Shri.Nutan.K and Shri. Govind K	Flat No 302,3rd Flr,Blk D,G K Lake Side Apt, Sy 94/2, Ananthapura, Yelahanka Bangalore 560064	East: Land in Sy No 94/3, West: Land in Sy No 93, North: Road formed in Sy no 94/1 and Land in Sy No 94/1, South: Land in Sy 92.	1) Original Sale Agreement Dtd 04-12-2012 2) Original Construction Agreement Dtd 04-12-2012 3) Original Tripartite Agreement 4.Original Sale Deed Doc No-2730/2014-15 Dtd 31-10-2014
03	Shri. Aneesh Kumar and Smt. Archana Sasi	Flat No-205, Daady S,Elixer Appts,Sampige,Bangalore, Karnataka,560100,	East: Border of Singena Agrahara, West: Pedda Venkatappas land, North: Yajaman Venkata Bhovis land, South: Pedda Munishamys land.	1) Form No-9 & 11(Khatha Certificate And Extract)
04	M R Narasimha Murthy and Smt. S Champa	No. 63/2,Pid 51-91-63/2, Ward No 154, 1st Block, Thyagarajanagar, Bangalore 560028	East: House belonging to S Ramaiah Shetty, West: House belonging to Maasti Venkateshaiah Iyengar, North: House belonging to T L Shamarao, South: Road.	1) Original Sale Deed Doc No-7889/2018-19 Dtd 12-02-2019 Favouring M R Narasimha Murthy 2) Original Sale Agreement Doc No-6414/2018-19 Dtd 14-12-2018 3) Original Sale Deed Doc No-158/195-66 4) Original Sale Deed Doc No-719/1978-79 5) Original Sale Deed Doc No2205/1978-79 6) Original Release Deed Doc No-5872/2018-19dtd 28-11-2018 7) Original Khata Certificate ,Khata Extract And Khata Endorsement Dtd 11-12-2018
05	Shri.Nagaraj K, Shri. Vijay K and Smt.Chikkahanumakka	Site No 9 &10, Ramagondanahalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk 560064	Site no 9:- East: Site No 08, West: Site No 10, North: Private Property, South: 25ft Road. Site No 10:- East: Site No 09, West: Site No 11, South: 25ft Road.	1) Original Sale Deed Doc No-4442/2018-19 Dtd 07-02-2019
06	Smt. Mohini Panigrahi and Shri. Amit Kumar Mishra	Flat No 111, Pioneer Moonstone, Seegenhalli, Whitefield, Bangalore 560067	East: Land bearing Sy no 96, West: Land bearing Sy No 98, North: Road, South: Kaluve.	1) Original Sale Deed Doc No-11803/2018-19 Dtd 13-02-2019 Favouring Mohini Panigrahi
07	Shri. Sandeep R Jahagirdar and Smt. Shreegouri	Flat No TF 303,3rd Flr, Block A, Elegant Valley Halagevaderahalli Vill, Kengeri Hobli Bangalore 560098	East: Land bearing Sy no 292, West: 40ft road, North: Remaning portion of land bearing Sy No 294/2,4,5,6,8&9 conveyed to M/s Avani Builders, South: Road.	1) Original Sale Deed Doc No-10722/2018-19 Dtd 06-02-2019 Favouring Sandeep R
08	Smt.G Reddamma and Smt. G Uma	Site 794, Mig A Sector, 8th A Cross, Yelahanka Bangalore 560064	East: Site No 795, West: Site No 793, North: Site No 761, South: Road.	1) Original Sale Agreement Dtd 04-01-2019 Favouring G Reddamma 2) Original Sale Deed Doc No-5275/2018-19 Dtd 11-02-2019 Fvrng G Reddamma 3) Original Sale Deed Doc No-1313/1998-1999 4) Original Intimation Of Allotment Letter From Khb Dtd 23-11-1984 5) Original Khata Certificate Nad Khata Extract Dtd 18-06-2018 6) Original Khata Endorsement From Khb Dtd 03-01-2002 7)Allotment Letter From Khb Dtd 25-11-2009
09	Shri. Siddaraju T R	Site No 482, Katha 517,Shivanapura Village, Dasanapura Hobli, Bangalore 560073	East: Site No 471, West: Road, North: Site No 483, South: Site No 481.	1) Original Sale Deed Doc No-6041/2018-19 2) Original Sale Deed Doc No-66007/2006-07 Favouring Gowramma 3) Original Sale Deed Doc No-16669/2006-07
10	Smt.Sahana.K and Shri. Naveen M	Site No 253,Caroline Springs Layout,Madiwala Kasaba Hobli Anekal Taluk Bangalore 562106	East: Site No 240, West: Road, North: Site No 252, South: Site No 254.	1) Original Sale Deed Doc No-14168/2018-19 Dtd 31-01-2019 2) Original Sale Deed Doc No-5313/2012-13 Dtd 03-09-2012
11	Shri. Manju S and Smt. Padmapriya R	Site 1/4, Sy No 67/5, Ward No 72, Herohalli Yeshwanthapura Hobli Bangalore 560091	East: Road, West: Portion of Land in Sy No 67/5, North: Site no 1/3, South: Portion of Property in SY No 67/5, Belonging to Mr. V K Devaraj.	1) Original Sale Deed Doc No-5905/2018-19 Dtd 04-02-2019 Favouring Manju S 2) Original Sale Agreement Dtd 15-11-2018
12	Shri. Vinod Kumar Yadav Shri. Lal babu Yadav	Site No 20,Katha 2352/325 /20, Attur Village,Yelahanka Hobli Bangalore 560064	East: Private Property, West: Road, North: Site No 21, South: Site No 19.	1) Original Sale Agreement Dtd 30-01-2019 2) Original Sale Deed Doc No-10341/2018-19 Dtd 06-02-2019 Favouring Vinod Kumar Yadav 3) Original Sale Deed Doc No-460/2004-05 Dtd 07-04-2004 4) Original Sale Deed Doc No-9394/2013-14 Dtd 30-12-2013 5) Original Discharge Deed Doc No-8840/2018-19 Dtd 20-12-2018 6) Original Gift Deed Doc No-214/2017-18 Dtd 22-04-2017.
13	Smt. Kuderu Asha	Flat No 207,2ndFlr,Vandana Pearls Apt, Bomanahalli, Begur Hobli, Bangalore 560068	East: Land belongs to Sri. Gurumurthy Raddy, West: Government Road, North: Presently Road formed in land belongs to Sri. Lakshmaiah.	1) Katha Certificate Favouring Deepak Nayak S 2) Regd Sale Deed Favouring K Asha
14	Shri. Muniraju H & Smt. Munirathnamma R	All that piece and parcel of immovable residential property comprising of land Property bearing Site No.1, Katha No.299/1 measuring 1569.5 sq ft, Site 2, Katha No.299/2 measuring 2880 sq ft, Site No.3, Katha No.299/3 measuring 2790 sq ft, Site No.4 , Katha No.299/4 measuring 2695 sq ft., Sy No.111/5 & 29/2 of Bavikere Village, Kasabahobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore Rural	**Site No 1:** East: Private Property, West: Site No 2, North: Road, South: Site No 18. **Site No 2:-** East: Site No 1, West: Site No 3, North: Road, South: Site No 17&18. **Site No 3:-** East: Site No 2, West: Site No 04, North: Road, South Site No 16&17 **Site No 4:-** East: Site No 03, West: Site No 5, North: Road, South: Site No 15&16.	1) Sale Deed Registered No.3265/09-10 Dtd 9.9.2009

This is also to inform the public at large including the erstwhile employees of the courier company that if any person has any information about the present location of the above said documents it may be informed to us immediately and if all/any of the above mentioned documents are found by any person, they are requested to hand over / return the same to IDBI Bank at the earliest not later than 15 days of issuance of this notice at the below mentioned address: **IDBI Bank Ltd, IDBI House, No 58, Mission Road, Bangalore 560027.**

Date: 29-05-2021
Place : Bangalore

S/d- Authorized Officer
IDBI Bank Ltd, Regional Office

Market Watch

MARKET			GOLD			SILVER			FOREX		
307.66 ▲	Sensex	51,422.88	₹15 ▲	24 carat (1 gm)	₹4,881	₹164 ▼	Per kg	₹70,650	▲ Dollar		72.6
97.8 ▲	Nifty	15,435.65	₹15 ▲	22 carat (1 gm)	₹4,862	₹0.16 ▼	Per gm	₹70.6	▲ Euro		88.52

Centre set to borrow ₹1.58 lakh cr

To borrow through a special window to help states make up for shortfall in GST revenues

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE Centre will again borrow from a special window to pay states in order to make up for the expected shortfall in GST compensation cess, which it has estimated at ₹1.58 lakh crore this fiscal year.

"On GST compensation cess, same formula as last year to be adopted this year too. The rough estimate is that the Centre will have to borrow ₹1.58 lakh crore and pass it on to states," Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said.

Last year the GST Council decided to borrow ₹1.10 lakh crore, to pay the states in order to make up for the shortfall.

"On the compensation, what we have told the Council is that if we adopt the same methodology and formula as last time, the gap is coming to about ₹1.58 lakh crore at macro level. If we calculate at state level there could be a difference of a couple of thousand crore," Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj told reporters.

He clarified that the shortfall exceeded the ₹1.10 lakh crore last year, and this year, the ₹1.58 lakh crore borrowing would help the Centre clear that pending compensation.

The government, though, expects that unlike the last year, when there was a complete lockdown and the economy suffered severely, this year, the impact would be less severe.

"If we could collect on an average ₹1.15 lakh crore a month, the deficit in compensation would be around ₹1.25 lakh crore. So we could compensate the states for last year's shortfall by another ₹30,000 crore. We made this presentation in the meeting, and we would ask the states if they could borrow this amount. Simultaneously, we would approach the RBI," Bajaj explained.

He added that the Department of Expenditure will soon write to the states on arriving at the exact amount borrowed and with a fresh borrowing proposal in this regard.

The GST Council also decided to convene a special session in 2-3 months to discuss the extension of a protected revenue regime for states. Meanwhile, sources have said that all states are on board on the extension of the protected revenue system for another five years.

Paytm IPO to give Chinese investors bumper exits

BISMAH MALIK @ Bengaluru

PAYTM's upcoming IPO, touted as the country's largest public issue till date at $3 billion (₹21,000 crore), may also make it a truly Aatmanirbhar firm. Two of its Chinese investors, Ali Baba and Ant Financial, are likely to exit or dilute their stakes during the listing, sources privy to the development said. Ant Financial and Ali Baba together hold 37% in Paytm, with other major stakeholders being Soft Bank at 20% and SAIF Partners at 19%.

Vijay Shekhar Sharma-led Paytm had been caught in the crossfire over the nearly 40 per cent stake held by the Chinese companies when Indo-China tensions peaked last year.

Sharma has, of late, advocated for developing indigenous technology, while leading a start-up alliance against big tech firms such as Google and Apple over an increase in their in-app payment charges for developers. Google, for its part, had temporarily suspended Paytm and its fantasy games app from its platform after it was found violating company policies. Sharma had likened big tech to the East India companies, claiming that they were monopolizing markets. He had also announced the launch of India's first mini app store.

Meanwhile, Alibaba's payment subsidiary, Ant Financial, has put its investments into Indian firms on hold and is seeking an exit from firms including Paytm and Zomato.

PAYTM'S SHAREHOLDING PATTERN

Shareholder	Stake
Vijay Shekhar Sharma	14.8%
Ant Financial	29.7%
Soft Bank Vision Fund	19.6%
SAIF Partners	18.6%
AliBaba	7.4%

Source: traxcn

Paytm's IPO is also being described as a watershed moment for the markets, testing the appetite for new-age tech companies. But since Indian market regulator SEBI has proposed new dual listing norms, sources say Paytm may also consider listing in the US markets.

Serial entrepreneur K Ganesh noted that start-up IPOs were a welcome development. "We need more tech companies in Indian markets, currently dominated by retail and banking firms, which are highly overvalued compared to their global peers," he said.

"Tech companies look inefficient in the short term, especially due to the cash burn and higher valuations, but in a country like India, they will make more profits in the long term," Ganesh added.

Zerodha ESOP buyback puts valuation at $2 billion

BISMAH MALIK @ Bengaluru

STOCK-broking unicorn Zerodha's valuation has doubled this year to $2 billion, led by the rising number of retail investors in the stock markets—especially millennials who have taken to digital platforms to make investments.

Zerodha's founder and CEO said that the company will be holding its second consecutive ESOP buyback this year after the platform witnessed a surge in retail participation. The company's ESOP buyback is worth ₹181 crore this year, compared to ₹65 crore last year. While critics say that the self valuation by Zerodha has been a conservative estimate, Kamath said that a bootstrapped start-up like his operating in the volatile trading markets, has to take the necessary measures. Zerodha has not raised funding from investors even as its peers have chased funding and expanded marketing spends.

"While the obvious answer might be the easy availability of risk capital today that can help a business grow fast. But there is another reason why startups focus on growth and valuation rather than profits. As a promoter/founder you pay almost 250% more as taxes if you were taking out money from the business as salary/dividends compared to paying capital gains when selling your stake to an investor (fundraising route)," Kamath tweeted.

He added that while there is nothing wrong with chasing valuations, without being profitable, it's tough to ride out the downturns in the economy.

"So this tax arbitrage potentially could be potentially creating not so resilient businesses which isn't good for our economy in long run While our growth is exciting, we know that this isn't sustainable. A broking business is an extremely high beta - highly correlated with the market conditions. Even if there was a mini bear market, our business could drop by 40% in a heartbeat," Zerodha's chief executive said.

NBFCs slow down loan disbursements fearing an increase in default rates

SESA SEN @ New Delhi

FINANCIERS face renewed asset quality and liquidity risks as elevated medical expenses and prevailing uncertainty are impacting repayment capability.

Initial estimates reveal that non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) saw a 8-10 per cent drop in loan collections in April and an additional 10-15 per cent in May, while nearly 10 per cent of borrowers missed their payment schedules during the second wave as against an average default rate of about 2-4 per cent.

According to industry executives, there are lower fresh loan disbursals due to weak demand compounded by risk aversion and some NBFCs are even halting them for unsecured loans. "The second wave has been more brutal than the first. Other than agri and essential good carriers, all other segments are seeing muted demand. Up to the first 15 days of April we saw normal activity, but since then there has been a significant slowdown. At the end of April we disbursed loans for only 30,700 vehicles. April-May collections have slipped to 70 per cent as against an upward of 90 per cent levels post September," said Ramesh Iyer, VC & MD, Mahindra Finance. He added that consumers will continue to find it difficult to service the loans unless activity picks up.

8-10% drop in May collections

10% borrowers miss payments

April-May collections have slipped to 70 per cent as against an upward of 90 per cent levels post September

Ramesh Iyer, VC & MD, Mahindra Finance

Among others, IIFL Finance has halted fresh disbursements for unsecured loans like MSME. The non-bank lender has also tightened disbursements in secured advances like loans against property, the most dominant part of its portfolio along with gold loans. In a recent post-earnings analysts' call, Cholamandalam Investment & Finance executive VP & CFO Arulselvan D also indicated that disbursements have tapered off after posting strong growth in the H2 of 2020.

Similarly, Shriram Housing Finance has also slowed disbursements. "We have slowed down disbursal and we expect things to start returning back to normalcy towards the end of this quarter. There are certain sectors like hospitality where we are working with the customers to help them tide this situation," said Ravi Subramanian, MD & CEO, Shriram Housing Finance.

Even as NBFCs ramped up collections through digital channels, it has been impacted primarily because many lenders have been forced to stop door-to-door collections.

ASIANOMICS

MALAYSIA

EXPORTS RISE FASTEST SINCE 1998

Malaysia's exports in April rose 63% from a year earlier, the fastest pace of growth in more than two decades, government data showed. April's expansion exceeded economists' forecast and was up from the 31% growth seen in March. The pace of growth was the fastest since February 1998, with a rise in shipments seen in all categories except liquified natural gas and transport equipment. Imports in April grew 24.4% from a year earlier, compared to the 19.2% rise in March. Trade surplus in April narrowed slightly to 20.5 billion ringgit from 24.2 billion ringgit the previous month. The export expansion was driven by electrical and electronic products, rubber products, machinery etc, while import growth was led by petroleum, chemical products, metal, and iron and steel products. In geographical terms, Malaysia registered higher exports than countries such as Singapore, China, the US and EU nations.

SINGAPORE

INFLATION HITS 7-YEAR HIGH

Singapore's CPI inflation accelerated to 2.1% y-o-y in April from 1.3% in March, the highest reading since mid-2014. However, core inflation ticked up only slightly to 0.6% y-o-y from 0.5%, signalling muted underlying inflation pressure. The low base effect was at work in pushing total inflation higher last month. The quarterly adjustment of electricity tariffs and rising private transport costs due to higher gasoline prices, among other factors, contributed to April's inflation spike. As elsewhere, rising inflation in Singapore is likely to be a transitory phenomenon, while the second wave of the pandemic has also begun to depress demand. The Monetary Authority of Singapore's forecast ranges from 0.5-1.5% this year, but the risks to these forecasts are tilted towards the downside, since weak demand due to the resurgent pandemic outweighs supply shocks.

PAKISTAN

FITCH AFFIRMS COUNTRY'S AT B-

Fitch Ratings has affirmed Pakistan's Long-term Foreign currency issuer default rating at B- with a stable outlook. Pakistan's B- rating reflects weak public finances, external finance vulnerabilities, and low governance indicator scores. The authorities made progress in addressing external and public finance challenges over the past few years, despite the headwinds from the Covid-19 pandemic. However, economic uncertainties from the pandemic and political challenges in keeping the reform agenda on track pose risks, it noted. External inflows have supported an appreciation of the Pakistan rupee against the US dollar and a further rebuilding of forex reserves, which, excluding gold, may touch $17.4 billion by the end of June, 2021 from $13.3 billion a year before.

CORPORATE RESULTS

EXCEPTIONAL ITEM PULLS DOWN M&M PROFIT

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU

HOME grown auto-major Mahindra & Mahindra on Friday reported a consolidated profit of ₹163 crore for the March quarter of 2020-21 as against a loss of ₹3,255 crore in the year-ago quarter.

Profit was impacted by an exceptional item worth ₹838.89 crore, the company stated. "Exceptional item (net) of ₹839.89 crore... represents impairment provisions for certain long-term assets and other exposures," M&M said.

₹163 cr consolidated Q4 net profit

₹13k cr Total revenue during Q4

48% year-on-year growth in sales

The Mumbai-based company had also reported an exceptional item worth ₹1,213.98 crore in the October-December period. The earlier loss of ₹3,255 crore in Q4FY20 was due to a write down of its investment in South Korean Ssangyong and other global subsidiaries.

M&M's revenue during recently concluded quarter grew by 48 per cent year-on-year basis to ₹13,338 crore as it sold 1,06,333 vehicles (up 18% YoY) and 93,044 tractors (up 58% YoY). Operating margin improved to 14.7 per cent compared to 13.6 per cent in the corresponding quarter previous year despite a significant strengthening in commodity prices, it said.

The automaker added that overall demand remained robust for its products in Q4FY21. However, the global shortage of semi-conductors has impacted production and sales.

Rajesh Jejurikar, executive director, auto and farm sector at Mahindra and Mahindra, said that the company is expecting demand for tractors in the Indian market to come back from June since the lockdown measures adopted by state governments is likely to be removed gradually.

"In auto, we might have to wait for a month or two before the demand comes back. Our conviction is that we will see a strong comeback of demand once the economy opens ...The semiconductor issue has impacted certain models. The supply side issues are expected to continue with the localized lockdowns," he said.

This year our focus will be on leveraging the larger Balance sheet size, higher CRAR, wider geographical presence, larger talent pool and enhanced technology

Padmaja Chunduru, MD & CEO, Indian Bank

Indian Bank records Q4 net profit of ₹1,709 crore

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

PUBLIC sector lender Indian Bank has posted a net profit of ₹1,709 crore in the fourth quarter ended March 2021 (Q4FY21) as against a net loss of ₹1,641 crore in the same quarter last year (Q4FY20), buoyed by rise in core income. Its net interest income rose marginally to ₹3,334 crore during the quarter from ₹3,310 crore a year ago.

For the full fiscal, which is also the first full year of operations after Allahabad Bank was merged with Indian Bank, net profit stood at ₹3,005 crore as against loss of ₹4,643 crore in the previous year.

During the quarter under review, the bank's total business went up to ₹9.28 lakh crore (deposits ₹5.38 lakh crore, advances ₹390,317 crore) from ₹8.57 lakh crore (deposits ₹48.8 lakh crore, advances ₹36.8 lakh crore) in FY20.

Addressing reporters, Padmaja Chunduru, MD and CEO, Indian bank said that the focus is on reducing cost of funds and enhancing loans which will earn better yield without impact asset quality.

Gross Non-performing asset ratio (GNPA) fell to 9.85 per cent in March 2021 from 11.39 per cent in March 2020. Net NPA levels also dipped to 3.37 per cent in March 2021 from 4.19 per cent in March 2020.

Nifty hits record high, Sensex 1,000 points away from earlier peak

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE Nifty index has finally broken the 15,430 level after 16 weeks of consolidation. On Friday, the 50-stock index scaled a fresh record peak of 15,469, surpassing its previous high of 15,432 (February 16). It closed the day 97 points higher at 15,435 against its previous close of 15,337.

The Nifty traded higher for the sixth consecutive session as India recorded its lowest daily count of new Covid-19 cases in 44 days. Added to this, multiple states are expected to go ahead with unlock procedures starting next month. There is also speculation that there maybe a stimulus package in the works.

"With fresh cases subsiding continuously, investors are upbeat about the unlocking of the economy in June which will help revive commercial activities. A healthy earnings season with strong growth momentum lent support to the market. Hopes of further stimulus by the government are also bolstering investors' confidence," said Hemang Jani, Head Equity Strategy, Broking & Distribution, Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

Nifty's Friday rally was led by Reliance Industries (RIL) as its stock surged 6 per cent. Grasim, Adani Ports, M&M, Eicher Motors, Coal India, HDFC, Kotak Bank, and IndusInd Bank remained the top gainers of the day, up between 1 per cent and 3 per cent.

While Nifty touched a new high, the Sensex is still over 1,000 points away from its February 16 high of 52,516. On Friday, the 30-stock index settled at 51,422.88, up 3.7 points. "The main reason for this is the underperformance in HDFC and HDFC Bank. However, in the coming days we could see the rally in HDFC twins and in those stocks that have underperformed in the current upmove," said Shrikant Chouhan, Executive Vice President, Equity Technical Research at Kotak Securities.

He added, "The Nifty can stop once between 15500 and 15600 levels. The 15250 and 15100 are big pillars for the market and as long as the Nifty stays above 15100, we can see 16000 to 16200. The strategy should be to buy on dips."

SUPPORT SYSTEM

'NTPC utilising all resources to help staff during pandemic'

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

POWER major NTPC ltd said on Friday that it was utilising all its resources in assisting its employees and their families during the pandemic. The company said that it has planned for exceptional cases that need advanced urgent care and developed medical infrastructure facilities at many of its locations for treating Covid.

"Additionally, for those who are deceased due to the coronavirus, the company has implemented various measures to ensure financially sustained and dignified life for their family members. It has also extended medical facilities to all the dependents, facilities for the retention of company residential accommodation, extension of educational facilities to children..," it added.

RBI slaps ₹10 cr fine on HDFC Bank

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of ₹10 crore on HDFC Bank for deficiencies in regulatory compliance. The banking regulator, in a release on Friday, said that it had received a whistleblower complaint regarding irregularities in the bank's auto loan portfolio.

After reviewing the documents in the matter of marketing and sale of third-party non-financial products in HDFC Bank's auto loan division, the regulator found the bank had breached two provisions—Section 6(2) and Section 8 of the Banking Regulation Act.

Under Section 6(2) a bank isn't allowed to enter into any business, which doesn't fit into the list of activities allowed. Under Section 8, a bank cannot enter into any buying, selling or bartering of goods, except in connection with any security given or held by it.

A notice was subsequently issued to the bank advising it to show cause as to why penalty should not be imposed for contravention of the provisions of the Act/directions. After considering the bank's reply to the show cause notice, the RBI said it came to the conclusion that the charges were substantiated and the actions warranted monetary penalty.

The irregularities pertain to the charges including bank's executives forcing the borrowers to buy GPS devices bundled with the auto loans

EXPRESS READ

Sundaram Finance net profit jumps 38 pc

New Delhi: Sundaram Finance on Friday reported a 38 per cent jump in its consolidated net profit to ₹270.51 crore for the March 2021 quarter. The non-banking financial company had posted a net profit of ₹195.65 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous financial year. For the full year 2020-21, the consolidated net profit went up by 47 per cent to ₹1,165.09 crore as against ₹791.54 crore in 2019-20, Sundaram Finance said in a regulatory filing. The board has recommended a final dividend of ₹6 per share for FY21.

India, NZ to be adjudged joint winners in case of draw or tie

India and New Zealand will be adjudged joint winners of the inaugural World Test Championship if their final clash in Southampton ends in a draw or tie, the ICC said on Friday. The ICC has also allocated a Reserve Day to make up for any lost time during the regular days of the Final, scheduled to be played from 18 to 22 June, with 23 June set aside as the Reserve Day.

LEFT IN THE LURCH

Many umpires, scorers & analysts who help the BCCI in conducting over 2000 domestic matches are struggling

VENKATA KRISHNA B @Chennai

FOUR years ago, Mahendra (name changed) was busy with a 9 to 5 job. The money he earned was good enough to run his family of three in one of India's big metropolitan cities. He also happened to be a respected umpire in the Indian domestic circuit. In 2019 — a season after the number of participating teams in domestic circuit swelled to 38 teams — his employer gave him two options: leave the company or quit umpiring.

Mahendra picked his passion: umpiring. It also kept him in the game, something he had followed since his childhood. There was no professional contract, but Mahendra, by virtue of being a Grade A umpire – the highest category – would on an average take home between ₹18-20 lakhs a season, which began in September and ended in March. Then the pandemic happened. Domestic matches came to a halt. When the curtailed 2020/21 domestic season sans Ranji Trophy began in January and ended in March, he could officiate only around seven-and-a-half match days.

"I got ₹2,40,000 as Syed Mushtaq Ali T20s count only as half-a-day. Previous two seasons I got around ₹18 lakh, but now this is all that I got. My family is now questioning my 2019 decision. I have to pay for my child's education. Don't forget the times we live in. I'm praying nobody in my family gets Covid because I will be ruined," Mahendra said. The story is similar for around 300 umpires and referees. While 20 Grade A umpires get ₹40,000 per day for matches, others in Grade B, C and D and match referees get ₹30,000 per day. Mahendra isn't the only one who made this choice. Scores have left regular jobs to take up umpiring.

Sourav Ganguly

SEEKING SUPPORT

"When the number of teams increased to 38, the number of matches across age-groups for both genders was more than 2,000. The BCCI needed us. And though we were not given contracts, we gave up our jobs for umpiring. Last season, the BCCI couldn't hold matches. We were not wanted anymore. Since we are not part of payrolls, we don't get any money from BCCI," says another umpire from the west zone.

Last week, the umpires, in a private WhatsApp group, even contemplated writing a letter to the BCCI, seeking compensation. Since the players were not compensated, they decided against it. Some were against the letter because they didn't want to antagonise BCCI. "When KVP Rao (former general manager) was around, we knew who to approach. But now, we don't know who to communicate with," says an umpire with over 10 years of experience.

This newspaper is in possession of letters written by scorers and video analysts, who like umpires, too are lost. Scorers' assignments are only local. Since only Chennai, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Indore, Surat, Jaipur, Ahmedabad and Delhi hosted matches, the rest of the scorers in the country have not received any pay. Each scorer gets ₹10,000 per day and are assigned nearly 30 matches a season. One of the scorers, hailing from a town in southern India, has been going door-to-door to sell bangles.

"Had no choice but to sell bangles, because I'd to run my family. I planned to set up a shop, but where will I get the money? So selling bangles in the town kept my family afloat," says the scorer, whose father is now admitted in a hospital. "I have borrowed from friends to pay the bills. Since the situation is tough, I can't ask help," he says.

Those match officials and umpires who have a job with state-run organisations are the only ones spared. They feel for their colleagues. "When BCCI needed them, they left their jobs and came because private companies didn't sanction leaves. We are talking about 40-50 days. Last year, the BCCI didn't need them so it left them in the lurch. Now if the season resumes and if the umpires turn their back and take up other jobs, where will the BCCI go?" asks a Grade A umpire with international experience.

'Adapt quickly in England & perform like we did in Aus'

ASHOK VENUGOPAL @Chennai

INDIA's ace spinner R Ashwin is confident that India will do well against New Zealand in next month's World Test Championship (WTC) final. The off-spinner currently has 409 Test wickets and has a chance to surpass Harbhajan Singh's tally of 417 scalps during the course of the upcoming tour in England, which includes the WTC final and five Tests against England. During an interview with *The New Indian Express*, Ashwin – who is in quarantine in Mumbai – spoke about the team's chances against NZ, his bowling and more. *Excerpts*

Q&A PART 1

You must be in a happy frame of mind now that your family members are much better having recovered from Covid?

I don't think anybody can be in a happy state of mind considering what's going on around us. I think in the entire crisis, my family members can count ourselves to be lucky because they got infected just before the peak. But the one thing I'm very proud of is that people are taking it upon themselves and helping one another. I'm sure a lot of volunteers are helping. I am very proud to call myself Indian as people are coming out and reaching out to one another.

With so much negativity around, how difficult is it to play?

We understand that a lot of people are not able to lead normal lives. But we realise that we can also put a smile on their faces, which is something that all cricketers can take pride in. Everybody inside the team definitely empathises and understands what's going on. And our thoughts are with all those people who are struggling.

How do you fancy India's chances in the WTC final?

We are at least another week to 10 days away from even practising for the first time. Most of the players have not played cricket since the IPL was called off. So I think that is one of the biggest challenges, but once we go there I think the Indian team will adapt quickly and perform like we did in Australia.

Full interview: newindianexpress.com

National champ has no money for diet

FIROZ MIRZA @Chennai

SHE lost her father when she was three. Before Covid lockdown, her mother used to work as a domestic help and also used to sell vegetables in the market. Now, because everything is shut, national champion in star wrestler Vinesh Phogat's category, Nandini Bajirao Salokhe, is struggling to make a living. "She lost her father when she was three. Her mother Sarita Bajirao used to work as a domestic help in her native town Murgud, Kolhapur to bring up the children (Nandini and her younger brother). With Maharashtra under lockdown, Sarita lost her job. She also used to sell vegetables, but that too is not possible now," Dada Lavate, Nandini's coach, told this newspaper. Lavate trains these girls at the non-residential SAI sub-centre in the city.

Wrestler Nandini Bajirao Salokhe

The Maharashtra wrestler rose to prominence in January this year when she won the national crown in 53kg weight category. The title also established her as the back-up for Vinesh, India's top woman wrestler and one of the medal favourites at the Tokyo Olympics.

A few months later, while Vinesh is busy training in Hungary in pursuit of an Olympic medal, Nandini is under severe financial distress. With the national camp suspended due to the pandemic, all wrestlers were asked to return to their homes. While a few of them have regular employment to take care of their needs including dietary requirements, others including Nandini have nothing to fall back on.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

EXPRESS READ

All-English battle for Champions League title

Manchester City and Chelsea are set to battle it out in the prestigious Champions League final in Portugal. City, who played some impressive football to win the Premier League, will look to add this mega trophy in their bag this season as well.

Srihari, Sajan set for Euro trip next month

CHENNAI: Indian swimmers Srihari Nataraj and Sajan Prakash are likely to travel to Serbia and Italy in June to compete in Olympic qualification meets. Both swimmers have only achieved 'B' qualification mark for the Tokyo Olympics so far.

Panghal, Thapa shine, reach Asian C'ships final

NEW DELHI: Amit Panghal punched his way into men's 52kg final at the Asian Boxing Championships after outpunching Kazakhstan's Saken Bibossinov in the last-4 clash in Dubai on Friday. Later, Shiva Thapa also ensured his third final appearance at the Asian Championships as he sent top-seeded Bakhodur Usmonov of Tajikistan packing with 4-0 win.

B'luru golfer to the rescue

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

India golfer S Chikkarangappa has not forgotten his way to the top. The Bengaluru man also worked as a ball boy and a caddie in his younger days. He is lending a helping hand to the caddies of Eagleton Golf Resort in the city with one month's groceries, including rice, pulses, among others. Besides, he also provided these groceries to some needy people around his village near Eagleton as well.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Stimac rues lack of proper facilities

ASHIM SUNAM @ Bengaluru

THE Indian national football team has endured a tough time of late. Their preparation for the World Cup 2022 qualifiers, which also acts as AFC Asian Cup 2023 qualifiers, was hit badly by the pandemic. Initially, they were supposed to start the camp on April 15, which later was pushed to early May. It also did not come to fruition.

They finally left for Doha for the preparatory camp in the third week of May but even the situation there is far from ideal. Obviously, head coach Igor Stimac, whose contract has been extended till September this year by the All India Football Federation, is not happy. Currently in quarantine, they are only going to move into the bio-bubble from Sunday before their match against Qatar on Thursday.

"As a coach, I expected that we are going to have the possibility of using the gym for our preparations. We are having morning sessions in the halls, in front of our rooms. Our players are eating delivery food, left in front of the door. That is not proper preparation. I am quite sure that the Qatar team is not in the same position. It is as simple as that," Stimac said during a media interaction on Friday. "Why do we not have a proper meeting hall to discuss and analyse our opponents? Why don't we have the possibility of spending more time together, meeting together? Instead of that, we have just one chance of going out in the evenings for a training session."

Full story: newindianexpress.com

सेन्ट्रल बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया / Central Bank of India

KANAKAPURA BRANCH, Opposite Office of Public Works Department, M.G. Road, Kanakapura – 562 117, Ramnagar District. Tel: 080 – 25726000, Mobile 9538893750

NOTICE U/S 13(2) OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002.

1) We have, at your request, granted to you various credit limits for an aggregate amount of **Rs. 14,49,600.00 at our KANAKAPURA branch**, and we give below full details of various credit facilities granted by us :

a) Term/Overdarft Loan- Cent Mortgage Business Loan with a limit of **Rs. 12,50,000.00 (Rupees: Twelve Lakhs Fifty Thousand Only)** sanctioned on 29.06.2013, bearing number **3264911240** sanctioned to **Mr. K.V. Venkatesha, Prop. Shri Lakshmi Venkateshwara Traders.**

b) WCTL – with a limit of **Rs. 40400.00 (Rupees Forty Thousand Four Hundred Only)** sanctioned on 10.12.2019, bearing No. 3790166757sanctioned to **Mr. K.V. Venkatesha,**

c) FITL – with a limit of **Rs. 35800.00 (Rupees Thirty Five Thousand Eight Hundred Only)** sanctioned on 10.12.2019 to **Mr. K.V. Venkatesha,**

d) Cent CEGL MSME – Term loan with a limit of **Rs. 123400.00 (Rupees One Lakh Twenty Three Thousand Four Hundred Only)** sanctioned on 02.06.2020, bearing no. 3822172464 to **Mr. K.V. Venkatesha,**

2. We inform you that out of total amount of **Rs. 787106.98 (Rupees: Seven Lakhs Eighty Seven Thousand One Hundred Six and Paise Ninety Eight Only)** due to us as on 30.04.2021 you have defaulted in repayment of entire amount of **Rs. 787106.98 (Rupees: Seven Lakhs Eighty Seven Thousand One Hundred Six and Paise Ninety Eight Only)** due to us as on 30.04.2021 plus further interest/Charges there on.

3) As you have defaulted in repayment of your full liabilities, we have classified your dues as Non-Performing Asset on **30.04.2021** in accordance with the directions or guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India.

4) We also inform you that in spite of our repeated demand notices & oral requests for repayment of the entire amount due to us, you have not so far paid the same.

5) You are aware that the various limits granted by us are secured by the following assets/security agreements (secured assets) :

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY/SECURED ASSET: All that piece and parcel of property situated in Bandiputta Shettara Beedhi, Ward No. 7, Purasabha Khatha Old No. 1708/1550, current No. 2780/1/1897, measuring East to West 35 feet, North to South 25 feet, totally measuring 875 sq. feet, with a building thereon and bounded on the: East by: Purasabha Road, West by: House of K.V. Srinivas Murthy, North by: House of Manjunath, S/o Late Sannappa, South by: House of Venkataramanaiah

6) For the reasons stated above, we hereby call upon you to discharge in full your liabilities to us within a period of 60 days from the date of receipt of notice, failing which we will be exercising the powers under Section 13(4) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and enforcement of security interest Act, 2002, against the secured assets mentioned above. The powers available to us under section 13 of the Act, interalia, includes power to (i) take possession of the secured assets of the borrower including the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realizing the secured asset, (ii) take over the management of the business of the borrower including the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale and realize the secured asset,(iii) appoint any person as Manager to manage the secured assets the possession of which has been taken over by us (secured creditor) and any transfer of secured asset by us shall vest in the transferee all rights in, or in relation to the secured asset transferred as if the transfer had been made by you. (iv) require at any time by notice in writing, any person who has acquired any of the secured assets from you and from whom any money is due or may become due to you, to pay to us (secured creditor), so much of the money as is sufficient to pay the secured debt.

7) The amount realized from the exercising of the powers mentioned above, will first be applied in payment of all costs, charges and expenses which in the opinion of us have been properly incurred by us or any expenses incidental thereto, and secondly applied in discharge of the dues of us as mentioned above with contractual interest from the date of this notice till the date of actual realization and the residue of the money, if any, shall be paid to you.

8) Please take note that after receipt of this notice, you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise any of the secured assets referred to in this notice, without prior written consent of the secured creditor. We draw your attention to section 29 of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, which awards imprisonment upto one year, or with fine, or with both, if you contravene the provisions of the Act.

9) We also inform you that, notwithstanding the action or proceeding under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, we reserve our right either (i) to simultaneously file, proceed and pursue suits/Applications/cases against you and or guarantors before DRT/Court, as the case may be , to realize the outstanding dues from you and guarantors, and or (ii) to proceed against you and or guarantors before Debts Recovery Tribunal/Courts, for recovery of the balance amount due to our Bank, if the entire outstanding amount together with the contractual rate if interest, are not fully satisfied with the sale proceeds of the secured assets. (iii) to proceed against you and or guarantor/s for initiating Criminal action for the acts, or omission committed by you under the provisions of law.

10) Your attention is invited to provisions of sub sec(8) of sec (13) of the act in respect of time available to you to redeem the secured assets.

To: Mr. K.V. Venkatesha (Borrower), Masjid Road 3rd Cross, Kumbara Beedhi, KANAKAPURA – 562 117. Mrs. Lakshmi (Guarantor), W/o Mr. D. Shivaramu, No. 47, 1st Cross, Behind Tiles Factory,KANAKAPURA – 562 117.

Date: 06.05.2021 Sd/- Authorised Officer
Place : KANAKAPURA Central Bank of India

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
CENTRAL WORKSHOPS, PONMALAI, TRICHY – 620 004

E – Tender Notice for the supply of Stores – No.GOC/Stores/E/18/2021

The following e-tender has been published in IREPS website. Firms are requested to Login to http://www.ireps.gov.in->login->E.Tender->Goods & Services (New) and quote against the tender. Manual quotations will not be entertained. Closing time : 14:30 hours

Sl. No.	Tender No	Description	Due date
1	67195470C	SET OF COMPREG PACKING AND COMPREG CLAMPS	15-JUNE-2021
2	67215070A	CHANNEL ISMC 250x82x9 MM (34.2 Kg/m)	15-JUNE-2021
3	67215021B	SOLID MIG/MAG WELDING FILLER WIRE	16-JUNE-2021

Attention : Micro Small Medium Enterprises [MSMEs]. The benefits provided to MSMEs under Public Procurement Policy for goods and services are as per details provided in the link **http://www.ireps.gov.in** -> ireps public documents -> Southern Railway

Dy. Chief Materials Manager, Goldenrock

Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailway

KALABURAGI MAHANAGAR PALIKE KALABURAGI

Ph: 08472/278675, Fax No: 08472-260776, Email: itstaff_ulb_gulbarga@yahoo.com

No: KMP/TS-01/CYCLE TRACK/02/2020-21 DATE: 27-05-2021

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION (CALL-02)

1) Name of Work: Construction of Cycle Track on Rajapur Road Connecting from Sedam Road to Ring Road in Kalaburagi City. (Call-02). 2) Head of Account: 2020-21 Cycle for Change Challenge Dult Karnataka. 3) Tender Amount: Rs. 4,77,00,000.00. 4) Eligibility of Contractor: Class I & Above. 5) Pre Bid Meeting Date and Time: 03.06.2021, 11:00am. 6) Last Date for Bid Submission: 08.06.2021 Upto 4:00pm. 7) Tender opening Date: 09.06.2021 Upto 5:00pm. 8) Tender Financial Bid opening Date: 11.06.2021 Upto 11.30am. 9) Contact Address & Mobile No: Executive Engineer, Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike, Kalaburagi. 9448140095 10) Web Site address: www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in

DIP/Kalaburagi/204/MC&A/2021-22 Sd/- Executive Engineer, Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike, Kalaburagi.

KPC GAS POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(Yelahanka Combined Cycle Power Plant)

CIN : U40102KA1996SGC020337

No.:KPCL/2021-22/OW/WORK_INDENT11002 Date: 27.05.2021

ABSTRACT TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through e-procurement portal only)

Item rate tenders are invited through GoK e-Procurement platform **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** for the work of **"Drilling of borewells to provide water supply facility to 11.5MW Waste to Energy Project at Bidadi, Ramanagara District"** from eligible contractors/agencies registered in KPCL as Class III & above. Amount put to tender: **Rs.20.60 Lakhs.** Complete details regarding the tender can be had from **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** EMD is **NIL.** Last date for tender submission: **11.06.2021 upto 17.00 Hrs.** Date of opening the Technical Bid : **12.06.2021 at 17.15 Hrs.** and after opening the technical bid, Financial bid of qualifying bidders will be opened on **14.06.2021 at 10.00 Hrs.** Further details can be had from the **Executive Engineer(Civil)Y, YCCPP, Doddaballapur Road, S.N. Halli Post, Yelahanka, Bengaluru-560064, Tel:080-28460974, Fax:080-28460302.**

Government of India
Bhabha Atomic Research Centre
SMFC Division, Mysuru

Post Bag no. 1. Yelwal, Mysore 571 130, Telephone : 0821-2406731/6644 Fax : 0821-240 3064

CORRIGENDUM-I

Ref: BARC/SMF/CS/05/2020-21 **Date: 24.05.2021**

Name of the work: Annual contract for Jungle clearance & Vents cleaning work in SMF plant site at Ullarthi& Township site at Kudapura, Challakere for the year 2021-22.

Tender No: BARC/SMF/CS/05/2020-21, Dt:06/05/2021

With reference to the above tender, due to prevailing condition of Covid-19 and state wise lockdown. Dates for Request for purchase/ Download of Tender Document is postponed, all bidders are requested tonote the following changes in NIT.

Description	Mentioned in the NIT	To be read as
Dates for Request for purchase/ Download of Tender Document (excel / word formats)	From **13/05/2021 (11:00 Hrs.)** to **24/05/2021 (15:00 Hrs.)** on website **www.tenderwizard.com/DAE** Detailed NIT and corrigendum is also available on website **www.barc.gov.in** for view only.	From **13/05/2021 (11:00 Hrs.)** to **14/06/2021 (15:00 Hrs.) on** website **www.tenderwizard.com/DAE** or **www.tenderwizard.in/DAE** Detailed NIT and corrigendum is also available on website **www.barc.gov.in** for view only.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer
For and on behalf of President of India

राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन
मध्यप्रदेश

एन.एच.एम. भवन लिंक रोड नं. 3, पत्रकार कालोनी भोपाल (462003)

क्र./एन.एच.एम./एच.आर./सेल–1/2021/8749 भोपाल, दिनांक 25.05.2021

शुद्धिपत्र (Corrigendum)

समाचार–पत्रों में प्रकाशित विज्ञप्ति क.–जी–16758/20 के तहत मध्यप्रदेश राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन द्वारा संविदा स्टॉफ नर्स के रिक्त पदों की पूर्ति हेतु सेम्स लिमिटेड के माध्यम से आवेदन आमंत्रित कर नियम पुस्तिका (2020–2021) का प्रकाशन किया गया था जिसमें आवेदन करने की अंतिम तिथि को विज्ञप्ति क. –जी–20629/20 के द्वारा दिनांक 20/03/2021 निर्धारित की गई थी।

उपरोक्त प्रकाशित संविदा स्टॉफ नर्स के विज्ञापन में निम्न संशोधन किया जाता है:

1. जिलों की स्वास्थ्य संस्थाओं में कोविड–19 अंतर्गत लगातार न्यूनतम 89 दिवस कार्य करने वाले स्टॉफ नर्स को उपरोक्त भर्ती प्रक्रिया में 10 प्रतिशत अधिभार अंक (Weightage) दिया जायेगा।
2. इस हेतु आवेदक को मुख्य चिकित्सा एवं स्वास्थ्य अधिकारी द्वारा जारी अनुभव प्रमाण–पत्र की प्रति सेम्स लिमिटेड की वेबसाईट (www.sams.co.in) पर अपलोड करनी होगी जिसके लिए आवेदक को इस शुद्धिपत्र के प्रकाशन उपरान्त दिनांक 01/06/2021 से 22/06/2021 तक का समय दिया जावेगा।
3. उपरोक्त संविदा सेवा 31 मार्च, 2022 तक के लिए होगी, जिसे आगामी वर्षों की वार्षिक कार्ययोजना में स्वीकृति अनुसार बढ़ाया जा सकेगा।
4. नियम–पुस्तिका (2020–2021) की शेष शर्तें यथावत रहेगी।

(अपर मुख्य सचिव स्वास्थ्य द्वारा अनुमोदित)

संचालक
राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन
मध्यप्रदेश

जी–12844/21

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client is desirous of entering into certain transactions in connection with below described **'Schedule Properties'** (*comprising 4 items*) with (1) **Sri. P Srinivas Reddy** (owner of properties described in Item Nos. 1 & 3 of the Schedule hereunder); (2) **Smt. P Radhika Reddy** (owner of property described in Item No. 2 of the Schedule hereunder) [both represented by their Agreement Holder and registered Power of Attorney Holder M/s. Township Promoters]; and (3) **Sri. A Ramakrishna** (owner of property described in Item No. 4 of the Schedule hereunder).

Notice is hereby given to the general public that any person/s, asserting any right, title, charge, lien, interest or claims whatsoever to the Schedule Properties are hereby called upon to submit to the undersigned, their objections or claims, if any, to the proposed transaction in connection with the Schedule Properties. The said objections or claims must be in writing, together with documentary proof and should reach us at the office address/ E-mail given below within a period of **10 (ten) days** from the date of publication of this Notice.

SCHEDULE

(Description of Schedule Properties)

All that piece and parcel of immovable properties situated at Vaderapura Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk [previously Bangalore North (Additional) Taluk], Bangalore Urban District morefully described in the table hereunder:

Item No.	Sy. No.	Extent#		Bounded on the			
		Acre/s	Guntas	East by:	West by:	North by:	South by:
1.	2/10 (portion) (old No.2)	1	05	Portion of Sy. No. 2/10	Portion of Sy. No.2/11 (i.e. Item No.2)	Road	Cart Track / Sy. No. 26 of Vaderapura
2.	2/11 (portion) (old No.2)	1	26	Portion of Sy. No. 2/10 (i.e. Item No.1)	Sy. No. 27 of Vaderapura	Road	Cart Track / Sy. No. 26 of Vaderapura
3.	4 (portion)	2	31	Portion of Sy. No. 4	Sy. Nos. 22 & 23 of Manchenahalli	Portion of Sy. No. 4 (i.e. Item No. 4)	Road
4.	4 (portion)	2	15	Portion of Sy. No. 4	Sy. No. 22 of Manchenahalli	BSF land	Portion of Sy. No. 4 (i.e. Item No. 3)

#Including karab land

Sd/- **Jayanth M. Pattanshetti**, Advocate
#102, Ground Floor, Rams Infantry Manor,
No. 70, Infantry Road, Bangalore – 560001.
Ph: 080-25593195 / 080-41238516
Email: mails@pattanshetti.in

Date: 29-05-2021
Place: Bangalore

QuoteExpress

GETTING INFORMATION OFF THE INTERNET IS LIKE TAKING A DRINK FROM A FIRE HYDRANT › MITCHELL KAPOR

All the news. In just a click. Log to www.newindianexpress.com | THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

REINING IN SOCIAL MEDIA

Three experts, writing for the Harvard Business Review on January 15 last, suggested social media companies must aggressively self-regulate, especially in the aftermath of the Capitol Hill uprising. A month later, the Modi government came up with its Intermediary Rules, 2021, setting a compliance deadline of May 25. Social media companies here are upset, with WhatsApp suing the Centre and Twitter criticising the violation of fundamental rights. Let's look at how social media firms fare globally

USER BASE (IN MILLIONS)

- FACEBOOK: 2,740
- YOUTUBE: 2,291
- WHATSAPP: 2,000
- FB MESSENGER: 1,300
- INSTAGRAM: 1,221
- TIKTOK: 689
- TWITTER: 353

OCEANIA: SAFE HAVEN
0 BANS IN AUSTRALIA & OCEANIA

An analysis of data by VPN firm Surfshark based on open-source information from Freedom House, Netblocks and reputable news reports paints a grim picture, especially of Asia and Africa. Here are some of its findings with the base year set as 2015

33% OF WORLD'S COUNTRIES HAVE RESTRICTED SOCIAL MEDIA

01 OUT OF 3 COUNTRIES HAVE SYSTEMATICALLY CLAMPED DOWN ON SOCIAL MEDIA

MOST OF THE OUTAGES HAVE BEEN RELATED TO POLITICAL OR SOsocietal EVENTS SUCH AS ELECTIONS, REFERENDUMS AND PROTESTS

AFRICA: SCUTTLING CONNECTIVITY

29 Out of 54 countries have blocked access

16 Countries restricted access due to elections

7 Countries restricted access due to protests and demonstrations

THE AMERICAS: A MIXED BAG

13% Of all countries endure social media blocks

While North America doesn't have recorded cases of social media restrictions, several countries in South America have

4 Countries out of 30 have practiced social media blocking since 2015

EUROPE: EAST-WEST DIVIDE

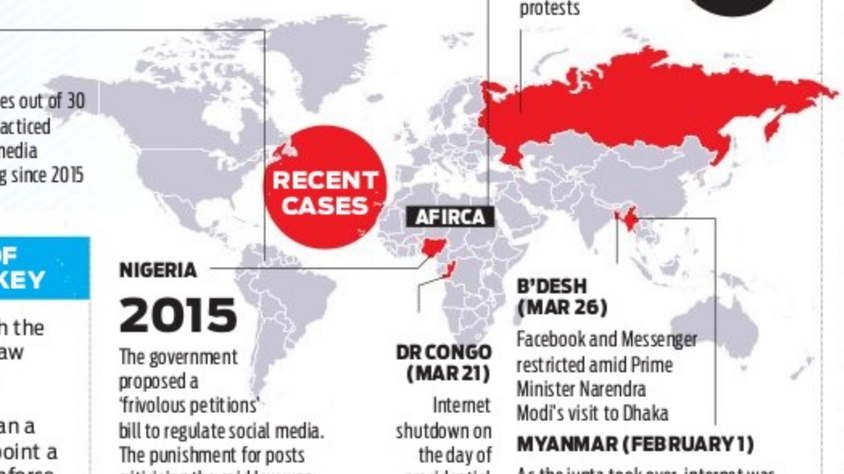
While there are no recorded bans in the Western Europe, the East tells a different story

4 Out of 46 countries in South to Eastern Europe have restricted access to social media since 2015

Russia, Belarus, Ukraine and Montenegro are the countries blockades were reported from

CURIOUS CASE OF TWITTER IN TURKEY

Turkey, a member of both the EU and NATO, passed a law with April 2021 deadline, requiring social media companies with more than a million daily users to appoint a local representative to enforce court orders to remove content. The law also mandates global platforms must store user data within Turkey. Twitter announced in March that it was joining Facebook and Google in appointing a legal representative to avoid its Turkish users getting cut off



NIGERIA

2015
The government proposed a 'frivolous petitions' bill to regulate social media. The punishment for posts criticising the said law was doing time in jail and a $10,000 fine. The bill was dropped following public criticism

2020
Government plans to resurrect the bill to manage 'fake news and hate speech'

DR CONGO (MAR 21)
Internet shutdown on the day of presidential elections

RUSSIA (JANUARY 23)
Internet disrupted amid anti-Kremlin protests

B'DESH (MAR 26)
Facebook and Messenger restricted amid Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Dhaka

MYANMAR (FEBRUARY 1)
As the junta took over, internet was disrupted across the country

NOTABLE CASES

CHINA
Does not allow foreign social media firms. It has an entire ecosystem of Chinese-based social media platforms like WeChat, Weibo, QQ, and Qzone

GEORGIA
Blocked YouTube twice in 2016 following the release of sex videos depicting Georgian politicians

AZERBAIJAN
Blocked social media platforms after the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict flared up in September, 2020

INDIA
4G network was restored to Kashmir in 2021 after 18 months of high-speed blockade

FACEBOOK'S COMPLIANCE IN FRANCE AND AUSTRALIA

Earlier this year, Australia joined France and a clutch of other nations to push Google, Facebook and other biggies to pay the rightful due to global news outlets, whom they bled dry by selling advertising linked to their reports without sharing revenue

While Google announced agreements to pay publishers in Australia, Facebook blocked users Later, both the internet biggies to agreed to pay publishers in Australia, France and other countries

FOUR KEY FINDINGS

1. Asian and African countries block access to social media the most, while Australia and Oceania had zero cases
2. The practice of limiting social media access is usually the result of anti-democratic governments seeking to suppress citizens' freedom
3. Social media blocking in most countries is more of an on-and-off occurrence instead of a permanent decision
4. There are 4 countries with ongoing bans on social media – all of them in Asia

ASIA: THE STRICTEST

4 Countries have placed blanket ban on social media

28 Of 48 countries have been cracking down on social media since 2015

22 Countries blocked social media since 2015

20 Countries showed no evidence of blocking

4 Countries – China, Iran, North Korea and Syria – currently blockading social media

IS INDIA ALONE IN REGULATING SOCIAL MEDIA?

The European Union, comprising 27 countries, in December 2020 proposed the Digital Services Act and the Digital Markets Act to reform the digital space with a comprehensive set of new rules for all digital services, including social media, online market places, and other online platforms that operate in the European Union.

Of significant interest is the Digital Markets Act, which seeks to:

- Monitor core platform services most prone to unfair practices, such as search engines, social networks
- Define thresholds as a basis to identify presumed gatekeepers. The Commission will also have powers to designate companies as gatekeepers following a market investigation
- Prohibit a number of practices which are clearly unfair, such as blocking users from un-installing any pre-installed software or apps
- Require gatekeepers to proactively put in place certain measures, such as targeted measures allowing the software of third parties to properly function and interoperate with their own services
- Impose sanctions for non-compliance, which could include fines of up to 10% of the gatekeeper's worldwide turnover

Earth heating up faster than thought, says weatherman

CLIMATE

PARIS: The world may temporarily breach the 1.5-Celsius warming mark within the next five years, according to an updated assessment of global climate trends released Thursday.

The World Meterological Organization and Britain's Met Office said there was a 40 percent chance of the annual average global temperature surpassing 1.5C above pre-industrial temperatures — the aspirational warming limit of the Paris climate accord. According to the Met Office's updated global 10-year climate prediction, there is a 90 percent chance of at least one year between 2021-2025 being the hottest on record.

The annual average global temperature over the next five years is likely to be at least 1C warmer than pre-industrial levels, within a range of 0.9C-1.8C warmer, it said. "These are more than just statistics," said WMO Secretary-General Petteri Taalas. "Increasing temperatures mean more melting ice, higher sea levels, more heatwaves and other extreme weather, and greater impacts on food security, health, the environment and sustainable development."

The landmark 2015 Paris climate deal saw nations commit to limit global temperature rises to "well below" 2C above pre-industrial levels. Experts greeted Thursday's announcement with caution. Joeri Rogelj, director of research at the Grantham Institute at Imperial College London, said a single year above 1.5C would not mean the Paris goals had been breached. "But this is nevertheless very bad news," he said. "It tells us once again that climate action to date is wholly insufficient and emissions need to be reduced urgently."

GOT HIS HANDS FULL

Professional dog walker Nobuaki Moribe taking his clients' pets for a walk on a Tokyo street on Friday | AP

ORWELLIAN PREDICTION

Microsoft top honcho calls for tough AI norms to prevent dystopian future

TECHNOLOGY

WASHINGTON: Life could become like George Orwell's *1984* within three years if laws aren't introduced to protect the public from artificial intelligence, Microsoft president Brad Smith has warned.

Smith predicts that the kind of controlled, mass surveillance society portrayed by Orwell in his 1949 dystopian novel 'could come to pass in 2024' if more isn't done to curb the spread of AI.

It is going to be difficult for lawmakers to catch up with rapidly advancing artificial intelligence and surveillance technology, he told BBC Panorama during a special exploring China's increasing use of AI to monitor its citizens.

The Microsoft president said: "If we don't enact the laws that will protect the public in the future, we are going to find the technology racing ahead."

During the special episode, Panorama uncovered 'shocking and chilling' evidence showing that China uses AI to monitor its population, including technology that claims to be able to 'recognise emotions' and determine guilt.

That is according to a software engineer who also provided documentary evidence to the programme. Speaking anonymously because he fears for his safety, he told Panorama that he helped to install the system in police stations in Xinjiang province which is home to 12 million mainly Muslim Uyghurs.

He said: "We placed the emotion detection camera three metres from the subject. It is similar to a lie detector but this is a far more advanced technology. It is used to confirm the authorities' prejudgment without any credible evidence. The computer score reveals the suspect is dangerous, therefore he or she must be guilty of many wrongdoings which have not been confessed yet."

Conventional AI uses input to 'teach' an algorithm about a particular subject by feeding it massive amounts of information. This could include sharing images of a particular type of plant, to allow it to determine whether a photo contains the image of that plant without human input. It can be used for more nefarious purposes, such as is the case in China where it attempts to determine the guilt of people pulled in by police.

China hopes to be the world leader in artificial intelligence development by 2030 and won more AI patents than US institutions in 2019. Smith said this is one example, visible around the world, of artificial intelligence bringing the real world closer to science fiction.

"I'm reminded of Orwell's lessons in his book *1984*. You know the fundamental story… was about a government who could see everything that everyone did and hear everything that everyone said. Well, that didn't come to pass in *1984*, but if we're not careful that could come to pass in 2024," he told the BBC, adding: "If we don't, we'll be looking at a future where other values will be imposed on us."

Single-shot J&J jab gets nod in UK amid variant concerns

COVID-19

LONDON: Britain on Friday approved the use of a fourth Covid vaccine, hoping to boost a countrywide inoculation drive to allow its economy to reopen fully despite concerns about a new variant.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) approved the single-shot Johnson & Johnson jab, after previously backing the Pfizer, AstraZeneca and Moderna shots.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson called it "very welcome news and another boost to our hugely successful vaccination programme".

"As we encourage everyone to get their jabs, the single-dose... vaccine will play an important role in helping us protect people from the virus," he wrote on Twitter. "When you get the call, get the jab,"

Health Secretary Matt Hancock said the mass vaccination campaign — the biggest in Britain's history — had already saved more than 13,000 lives. The latest regulatory green light "means that we

now have four safe and effective vaccines approved to help protect people from this awful virus", he added.

Britain has ordered 20 million doses of the vaccine, which was found to be 72 percent effective in preventing moderate to severe coronavirus infection, according to a US trial. The European Medicines Agency said in April that a warning about unusual blood clots with low blood platelet count should be added to the J&J product information following cases in the United States.

Britain has administered more than 62 million shots so far, mainly using the Pfizer and AstraZeneca vaccines.

The J&J vaccine comes on stream as younger people are called for their jab, amid concern over the rise of the so-called Indian variant. After months of falling cases, infections have started to rise again due to the emergence of the variant, which has put in doubt plans for a full reopening of the country on June 21.

Business Secretary Kwasi Kwarteng said Friday, however, "it was impossible for anyone to know what the situation will be like in a week or two weeks' time". "We'll be looking at the data, we've said repeatedly that we won't make a final decision about the 21st of June until the 14th of June," he told Sky News.

The development comes a day after Boris Johnson denied overseeing the needless deaths of many thousands of Covid patients, after his former chief adviser alleged the government's pandemic response was undermined by incompetence. He had declined to say whether Dominic Cummings was telling the truth in his claims though.

US returns stolen artefacts to Bangkok

HISTORY

BANGKOK: Two ancient sandstone artefacts believed to have been stolen from Thailand during the Vietnam War are set to return from the United States Friday night, officials say.

The temple support beams with their exquisite carvings of the Hindu deities Indra and Yama date back to the late 10th or 11th century and had been on show for decades at the San Francisco Asian Art Museum.

"The lintels were assessed to be taken away sometime between 1958 and 1969. In particular, 1965-66 saw a lot of Thai artefacts go missing," he said.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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DAY'S DIARY

Scaling Everest

Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay reached the 29,035-foot summit of Everest on May 29,1953, becoming the first people to stand atop the world's highest mountain

HIGHEST SUMMIT

Mount Everest sits on the crest of The Himalayas, lying on the border between Nepal and Tibet. Its summit reaches two-thirds of the way through the air of the earth's atmosphere

REACHING THERE

After a freezing, sleepless night, the pair plodded on, reaching the South Summit by 9 am and a steep rocky step, some 40 feet high, about an hour later

RECOGNITION

After this, Edmund Hillary was knighted by the queen. Tenzing Norgay received the lesser British Empire Medal, because he was not a citizen of a Commonwealth nation

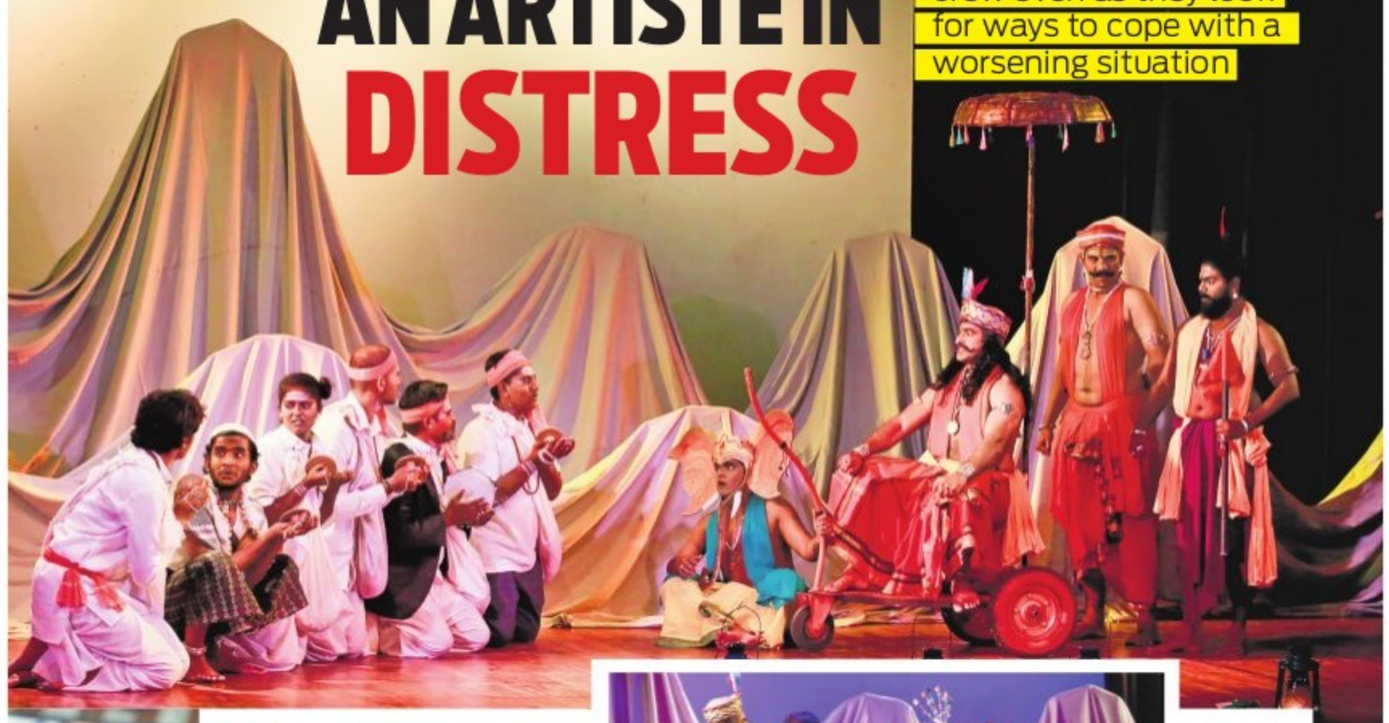
777 Charlie teaser out on Rakshit Shetty's birthday

PG 4

MONIKA MONALISA

PORTRAIT OF AN ARTISTE IN DISTRESS

Financial concerns and mental health issues are affecting artistes and their crew even as they look for ways to cope with a worsening situation



THE pandemic has engulfed us all, infecting us not just with disease but also with anxiety and mental distress. Artistes, who get us through such times, are unable to keep the show going due to financial and physical distress.

Take for instance Parthasarathi, a stage lighting designer and production manager, whose last show this year was in March, before the lockdown. "As it is people are struggling. It's even more difficult for freelancers like me. It's getting tougher day-by-day, with all our savings and investments being used up," says the 38-year-old who has worked in theatre for 13 years.

Dancer Madhu Nataraj says, "Art has been considered frivolous, yet artistes have always provided respite selflessly, by sharing their art."

While she may be the face of her performances, art is always 'composite' – there is always an army of people involved in all her productions, including music composers, costume designers, sound technicians, lighting designers, and many more.

"These people are artistes too, and this is their bread and butter. They can't just give it up. But right now, the situation is so bad financially, that everyone is trying to reinvent their path. For instance, some of my team members are trying their hand at video editing, costume designing for television etc," she says.

Theatre artistes too are taking up odd jobs to make ends meet. Nandeesh Dev, secretary of Ashvagosha Theatre Trust, himself has moved to the booking selling business and he is trying to create employment for others. "Many theatre artistes are currently working as food delivery executives for very little pay. I procure Kannada novels from different publishing houses and try and sell them within my contacts. Some theatre artistes are currently working as delivery executives for me," says Dev, adding that he follows all government rules by making sure that deliveries are done during the morning hours when movement restrictions have been relaxed.

> Many theatre artistes are currently working as food delivery executives for very little pay
>
> - Nandeesh Dev, secretary, Ashvagosha Theatre Trust

Stills from the play Maadaari Maadayya by Ashvagosha Theatre Trust

Theatreperson Arundhati Nag says the community needs funds to keep going. "We need someone to trust us and fund the dreams that we must weave today to deliver tomorrow. Funding today, making commitments with makers of art and plays, moderate budgets of ₹5-7 lakh will enable artistes to start thinking, put teams together, and start preparing to get the product ready for a festival next year."

Music rang out of venues in Bengaluru as artistes performed live up until the national lockdown ended all that last year. Musicians simply haven't been able to get back to even a semblance of pre-pandemic life, either financially or mentally.

Singer Raghu Dixit says an artiste is the happiest on stage and it's been a year since physical shows were allowed. "The shows are not just financial support. They're also a huge emotional anchor for these artistes. And now with no shows, it has affected them mentally. They have not felt the same kind of happiness for quite sometime," says Dixit, who adds that he feels he can cope better if he is doing something to help people in need.

GRUB HUB

Monika Manchanda, a city-based food writer and consultant, co-founder and chief culinary officer at LiveAltLife, dishes out fun food-related trivia in this weekly series. So, answer these three questions and find out how much of a foodie you are.

THE QUIZ WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

Send answers to **bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com** with the subject line **'Food quiz'**

The correct answers and names of the first three respondents with right answers will be featured in CE on Monday.

The first prize winner this week will win a complimentary voucher (worth ₹1,500) on delivery from Mad Mex.**

1. This much-loved Bengaluru chef gave us the burgers we went crazy for, smoked meats like we had never eaten before and now runs a home-based food service getting food from which is like playing a game of fastest fingers first. Name the chef.
2. This not-so-old but legendary place serves some deliciously crisp taaza-taaza dosas with the best coconut chutney. Which place are we talking about?
3. This is a cross between a cracker and a bread, made with gram flour and rice. It is spicy and perfect to be eaten with hot filter coffee on a rainy evening. Which local snack item are we talking about?

**Conditions apply

For more food-related stories and recipes, turn to page 3.

CITY READ

Online talk on Covid dos and don'ts for elderly

Bangalore Apartments' Federation and Silver Talkies are organising a Zoom session with public health expert Dr Vijayashree Yellappa on dos and don'ts for senior citizens as the second wave of Covid infections continues. The awareness talk will be held on May 29 at 4.30 pm, and is free and open to all people aged above 55 years. Dr Yellappa will ouch on the difference between the first wave and second wave of infections, vaccination and whether you can contract Covid-19 after full immunisation, safety measures etc. For details contact 99805 08000 or 63628 90768.

Riding the Korean wave

Bengaluru is in the grip of K-fever and fans swear by South Korean music, TV shows, movies and even dance

SANATH PRASAD

IF Spiderman and Superman transcended Hollywood to become a cultural reference across the world, including India, for many, there's a whole new band of icons that have overtaken the imagination. From ramyeon and kimchi to BTS, *Crash Landing On You* and *Reply 1988*, South Korean culture has many fans in Namma Bengaluru.

While the South Korean's entertainment industry has built solid production standards thanks to Hallyu (or the Korean wave), a term used to describe the global popularity of all things Korean, fans are drawn to K-pop and Korean dramas for more than the glamour on display.

For starters, as fellow 'orientals', many people connect with the social relations that Korean shows depict. Bengaluru student Nidhi Prashanth wasn't very interested in K-dramas until she watched *What's Wrong With Secretary Kim* which friends recommended. Then, she was hooked. "I feel that the culture of Korea featured in some of these series is similar to that in India. Even things like the divisions in the upper and lower strata of society are common," she says.

Discontentment with the dominance of European and American cultures prompted people like Anoushka Roy, a digital specialist in the city, to look for alternatives. "It's time that we are now exposed to movies that represent Asian culture. Many K-series reflect what happens in an Indian household," says Roy, adding that shows like shows like *Kill Me Heal Me*, *Goblin* influenced her strongly.

Nikitha JV, co-founder of Vrithi HR House, found a parallel between *Crash Landing On You*, the Korean series she's currently watching, and the Bollywood film *Veer-Zaara*.

"The series' story is almost similar to *Veer-Zaara* but set in the context of South and North Korea. It is about a South Korean woman who finds her true love in North Korea. However, what lifts the show is the detailing, the culture of North Korea, its hostility with South Koreans, and also the technical excellence," says Nikitha.

And then, there's the music. K-pop has its critics, but music – and dance – know no barriers. Stunning choreography in music videos is a hallmark of the industry, and has its own following. A group of 15 like-minded women formed Helix, a Bengaluru-based competitive K-pop dance team.

"K-pop music actually united us all. The lyrics of Korean songs are so meaningful that it can bring someone's mind out of darkness. A music series called *Love Yourself* by BTS can actually help someone overcome depression and body dysmorphia," says Harshita Kaushik, one of the members. BTS' acclaimed *Love Yourself* series – comprising four albums and one video release – talk about mental health and social pressure, and offer the message of being kind to yourself.

Another member, Sharanya Nambiar, talks about her own takeaways: "Korean culture is more about inclusivity with fans and followers. That is what is keeping all of us engaged."

> *It's time that we are now exposed to movies that represent Asian culture. Many K-series reflect what happens in an Indian household*
>
> Anoushka Roy, digital specialist

WATCH LIST

FRIENDS: THE REUNION (ENGLISH)

Steaming: on Zee 5

For all the fans of Friends out there, your favourite gang will is back with a reunion series. Catch your favourite cast of Friends – Rachel, Monica, Phoebe, Joey, Chandler and Ross – along with other celebrities like David Beckham, BTS, Justin Bieber, Lady Gaga, and Reese Witherspoon, as they recreate the magic of their the iconic sitcom, years after the series ended.

Cast: Matt Le Blanc, Matthew Perry, Jennifer Aniston

HALSTON- SEASON 1 (ENGLISH)

Steaming: on Netflix

Halston is a series based on the story of American fashion designer Roy Halston Frowick who redefined fashion in the US during the mid 1970's. The series explores his journey to success and fame with his iconic designs, styles made of cashmere or ultrasuede. As his fashion empire flourished throughout New York City, a hostile situation faced the mononymous designer. He struggles to take control of his asset- the name Halston itself.

Cast: Ewan McGregor, Rebecca Dayan, Krysta Rodriguez

BLUE MIRACLE (ENGLISH)

Steaming: on Netflix

Blue Miracle is a story about a group of underdogs, at the centre of which is an orphanage for young boys, most of whom lost their parents to increasing violence in the area. Mounting debt and poor infrastructure make it difficult for the orphanage to keep things going. The kids and the couple who run the orphanage team up with a washed-up boat captain to win a fishing competition hoping for a win-win situation.

Cast: Dennis Quaid, Jimmy Gonzales, Anthony Gonzalez

SOLOS (ENGLISH)

Steaming: on Amazon Prime

Solos is a series that explores the strange, beautiful, heart-breaking and hilarious truths of what it means to be a human. The series spans our present and future and helps us understand the human experience that connects us even during isolated times. These seven stories take you on a journey of the future with each story carrying its own challenges and perspectives

Cast: Morgan Freeman, Anthony Mackie, Anne Hathaway

Dr Sunil Kumar Hebbi runs a mobile clinic by day and serves at a Covid Care Centre by night

MEDICINE MAN

SANATH PRASAD

EVERY morning at 8 am, Dr Sunil Kumar Hebbi takes his car out for duty - not to head to a clinic or hospital, but to take his mobile clinic to treat patients in their homes.

For the past decade, 37-year-old Dr Hebbi, a resident of Malleswaram, has been running the mobile clinic through his Matru Siri Foundation to treat the poor free of charge. But the current health crisis has demanded more of his time, and he's been on double duty.

During the day, he treats patients through his mobile clinic, and since the first week of April, he has been working the night shift at the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahangara Palike Covid Care Centre in Goripalya. He manages to catch some sleep between 1-3pm and between midnight and early morning after finishing rounds at the CCC.

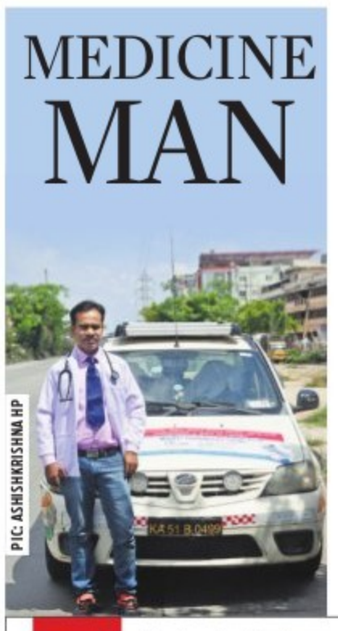
Born and raised in Vijayapura, Dr Hebbi worked at BGS Hospital in Bengaluru for several years before quitting in 2011 to devote his attention to the mobile clinic, with just two full-timers – himself and a nurse. An assistant doctor and another nurse volunteer with him. He raised Rs 2 lakh through donations from close associates to equip his sedan with an ECG machine, oxygen concentrator and cylinder, medicines for common illnesses such as cold, cough, and fever.

"I generally deal with mild and asymptomatic Covid-19 cases. I first inquire about the patient's vitals and try my best to offer telemedicine service. If the situation demands it, I drive to the patients' homes," Dr Hebbi says.

A medical consultation is one thing, but Dr Hebbi gets all kinds of calls and he never really turns anyone away. Last week, he ended up driving a man to a hospital in Electronics City after an ambulance service said they would charge the man ₹12,000 to take him to a hospital 3km from his house.

Offering free medical service to the poor comes with a huge personal cost, including the loss of a loved family member. "I lost my brother's son a few days ago to Covid. My family insisted that I stop the mobile clinic, but the cries for help from patients were just unbearable. I had to resume the day after his death," says Dr Hebbi.

He often treats 10-12 patients a day, sometimes travelling 120km all over the city. "The rise in petrol prices and the high demand for medicines and logistics is making it difficult for me to sustain this model. Although I finalised a deal to buy a second-hand Tempo Traveller, the dealer did not get back to me. I am struggling to raise funds now," says Dr Hebbi.



PIC: ASHISHKRISHNA HP

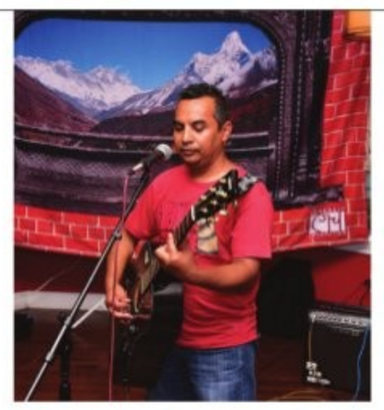
> **I lost my brother's son a few days ago to Covid. My family insisted that I stop the mobile clinic, but the cries for help from patients were unbearable. I had to resume the day after his death** – Dr Sunil Kumar Hebbi

COOKING CLASSES

Chef Shilpa Songira is organising an online cooking session. Participants can learn to look various dishes like mithi kadhi, dhokla, macaroni cheese pasta and more
When: May 29,
Details: bookmyshow.com

TALENT HUNT

LITKids open mic is coming up with a new season for school kids. Participants can showcase their talents in singing, instrumentals, story telling and other forms of entertainment.
When: May 29 onwards
Details: bookmyshow.com



MUSIC UNFILTERED

HootedIce is organising a virtual jam session hosted by artiste Lewis Avel. The open mic concept is an attempt at giving opportunity for singers, songwriters, musicians performing covers.
When: May 30, To register
WhatsApp 7045011032

LITERARY CONVERSATION

Prabha Khaitan Foundation presents The Write Circle- a virtual conversation between Bengaluru-based author Roopa Rai and Ruskin Bond. The conversation is centred around Ruskin Bond's latest book *All Time Favourites* for Children and his literary journey so far.
When: May 29, 6:30 pm
Details: Prabha Khaitan Foundation's Facebook page

SIGN UP FOR A LIVE MAGIC SHOW FEATURING KARAN SINGH AS HE TRIES TO READ YOUR MIND AND DEAL WITH MENTALISM. TICKETS: BOOKMYSHOW.COM

DIGITAL CIRCUS SHOW

Rambo Circus is organising 'Life is a Circus', its first-ever digitally-produced show in multiple locations. The event aims to induce laughter, entertainment and much more with artistes performing from their homes. **When:** May 28 onwards **Details:** bookmyshow.com

SKILLING UP

Enlighted Sapiens, a social enterprise is conducting a virtual interactive session on how to discover the inner-self, dominant intuitive style and stay connected. It also focuses on training the participants in enhanced decision making process **When:** May 30 **Details:** insider.in

Covid Care Meals

Gawky Goose- Kitchen and Bar has launched 'care meals' for those affected by COVID-19 and are quarantined or isolated at home without a helping hand to cook. The meal box will provide healthy and balanced meals like rice, chapati, curry and much more.
To place orders call: 9901787273

LOL

Stand up comedian Sorabh Pant is performing a comedy show called *The Expert*. In this weekly news show, he will cover politics, world news, film, sports, local news and about pop culture. **When:** May 29 onwards, **Tickets on:** bookmyshow.com

Acting Workshop

Flux Bengaluru is organising a theatre workshop for aspiring actors. The workshop introduces participants to the basic elements of theatre and master classes which will be focusing on components like mind, body and voice. **When:** May 29 onwards
Details: bookmyshow.com Youtube

QUICK FIX

What's cooking

IN YOUR KITCHEN?
We are hungry for recipes with minimum ingredients and maximum flavours. Share your quick-fix with us, along with step-by-step photos, at cityexpresschn@gmail.com.

KASHMIRI KAHWA

INGREDIENTS

- **Kashmiri green tea:** 1 tsp
- **Water:** 3 cups
- **Saffron:** 10-12 strands
- **Cinnamon:** ½ inch stick
- **Clove:** 1
- **Cardamom:** 1, crushed
- **Dried rose petals:** ½ tsp
- **Almonds:** 2 tsp, silvered
- **Honey:** 1 tsp (optional)

METHOD

- Heat water in a pan. Add saffron, cinnamon, cloves, dried rose petals and cardamom and let it simmer for 3-4 minutes.
- Switch off the heat and add green tea.
- Let the tea steep for a minute.
- Strain the kahwa and serve.

— Bilal Bashir, Delhi

FIT BIT

INDUDALASANA

(STANDING CRESCENT MOON POSE)

In Sanskrit, 'indu' means moon, 'dala' means fragment and 'asana' means pose. It is a simple standing asana that opens the sides of the body and strengthens the core muscles. Beginners or those with limited balance and/or flexibility can practice this asana with the feet apart. Hands can be kept in prayer position or the lower hand (in the direction of the bend) on the hip or on the thigh. It is a full body pose and the practitioners will feel the effects of this pose from the shoulders to the feet.

STEPS

- Start in Tadasana (Mountain Pose). Maintain the normal breathing for a few seconds.
- Inhale and move your arms towards the ceiling while expanding your upper ribs. Join your palms together.
- Make sure that your back is straight. Exhale and bend towards your right side without disturbing your lower body.
- Feel the stretch on the left side of your body. Gaze forward and maintain your balance.
- Stay in this pose for three long breaths.
- Inhale and come back to the starting position of Tadasana.
- Exhale and repeat the posture on your left side.

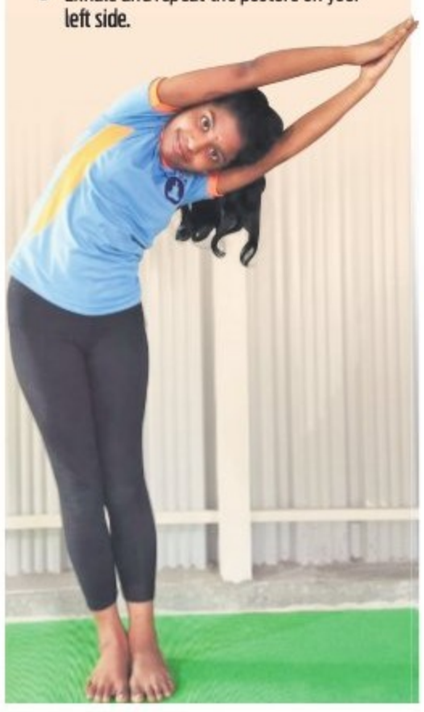
BENEFITS

- Helps reduce stress and fatigue.
- Helps stretch your sides, shoulders, arms and spine.
- Regular practise helps to strengthen your abdominal muscles.
- Helpful for improving digestion. Helps improve flexibility.
- Improves blood circulation in the body.
- Improves balance, particularly through the legs and feet.
- Regular practise improves concentration and stay focussed.
- Burns the belly fat and strengthens core muscles, while working on the oblique muscles.

LIMITATIONS

- Those who are suffering from severe lower back, shoulder or neck injuries, should not practise this asana.
- Anyone suffering from headache or heart problems, must avoid practising this pose.

— by N Elumalai, PhD scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai



SOUND BOARD

DARKNESS RADIO
Dave and Tim take listeners on an entertaining journey into all aspects of the supernatural, from ghosts and aliens, to monsters, mysteries, myths and legends with guest experts, experiencers and eye witnesses.
- On Apple Podcasts

THE WILD WITH CHRIS MORGAN
Taking listeners across the Pacific Northwest and around the world, host Chris Morgan explores wildlife and the complex web of ecosystems they inhabit. He also tells the stories of people working in and protecting the wild around us.
- On Stitcher

NATURE PODCAST
The Nature Podcast brings you the best stories from the world of science each week. We cover everything from astronomy to zoology, highlighting the most exciting research from each issue of Nature journal.
- On Apple Podcast

VAYADI
Vayadi is a podcast from Chennai Art Theatre. It features a range of lesser-known and spoken about topics; along with radio plays, artist profiles, technical know-how in theatre and much more.
- On Spotify

THE PERSONAL FINANCE PODCAST
Andrew Giancola from Dollar After Dollar reveals all of his personal finance, money, investing, business strategies, income sources, stock, and real estate investing tips so that you can build more wealth than you ever thought possible.
- On Spotify

POPULAR ON YOUTUBE

RX SOORI
A young gangster becomes infamous for his criminal activities in Andhra Pradesh. But things change when he falls in love with his childhood friend.
- Cast: Duniya Vijay, Ravi Shankar, Adi Lokesh

MALLA
Shiva, a florist's son, grows up to become a gangster. After his father is murdered, he sets out to take revenge against the culprits.
- Cast: V Ravichandran, Priyanka Upendra, Umashree

KEMPEGOWDA
Kempe Gowda, an honest police officer and a people's man, takes on a gangster, Armugam. However, the mafia leader has close connections with the bureaucrats, which keeps him safe against the law.
- Cast: Kichcha Sudeep, Ravishankar, Ragini Dwivedi

ANTARAVIRALLI
Sanjay and Nitya fall in love with each other despite facing opposition from their peers. They soon become intimate and Nitya gets pregnant, which causes problems in their lives.
- Cast: Prakhyuth Paramesh, Achyuth Kumar, Chikkanna

Scan this QR code to find out how your favourite celebs are coping with the lockdown.

WHAT'S ON TED TALKS

1 THE INFINITE ALCHEMY OF STORYTELLING BY ZAHRA AL-MAHDI
Multimedia artist and filmmaker Zahra Al-Mahdi challenges common historical narratives and brings a multiplicity of perspectives. She traces her development as a storyteller using satire, dark humor and tactile collage techniques to expand what we think we know about ourselves.

2 HOW DIRT BIKES & STEM IGNITE INGENUITY IN BALTIMORE BY BRITTANY YOUNG
Dirt biking is more than just a pastime — it's an opportunity to disrupt the cycle of poverty and provide enriching STEM education, says TED Fellow Brittany Young. In this talk, she shares how her team is working with students and street riders to create safe spaces, transferable skills and community.

3 WHAT FARMERS NEED TO BE MODERN, CLIMATE-FRIENDLY AND PROFITABLE BY BETH FORD
How can agriculture stay resilient and grow with the times? Beth Ford, CEO of Land O'Lakes, shares her plan to establish broadband as a basic right nationwide and talks through an exciting range of climate-friendly innovations aimed at making farmers more sustainable and profitable.

4 ELECTRONIC PILLS THAT COULD TRANSFORM HOW WE TREAT DISEASE BY KHALIL RAMADI
Medical hacker Khalil Ramadi is developing a new, noninvasive therapy that could treat diseases like diabetes, obesity, Parkinson's and Alzheimer's with an electronic pill. These micro-devices contain electronics that deliver bursts of electrical or chemical stimuli to the gut, potentially helping control appetite, aid digestion, regulate hormones.

5 THE DEATH OF THE UNIVERSE — AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR LIFE BY KATIE MACK
With astonishing visuals, cosmologist and TED Fellow Katie Mack takes us to the theoretical end of everything, some trillions of years in the future, in a profound meditation on existence, wonder and the legacy of humanity within the immensity of time and space.

NOW STREAMING

REGIONAL

ARISHADVARGA (Kannada)
An aspiring actor doubling as an amateur gigolo gets caught up in a sticky situation after accepting a surprise gift from an anonymous client. Cast: Sumyuktha Hornad, Anju Alva Naik
- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

INSPECTOR VIKRAM (Kannada)
Vikram, a police officer, strives hard to solve every case that comes his way. However, things take a turn when he encounters a criminal mastermind who runs an illegal drug operation.
Cast: Prajwal Devaraj, Bhavana
- Watch on Sunnxt

HERO (Kannada)
A barber stumbles upon his ex-lover in the home of a notoriously bloodthirsty gang leader. Misadventures ensue when he tries to help her escape with the gangster's men in hot pursuit. Cast: Rishab Shetty, Pramod Shetty
- Watch on: Zee 5

KALA
(Malayalam)
The death of a beloved dog hurls two men into a violent and bloody conflict on a sprawling estate in Kerala.
Cast: Tovino Thomas, Divya Pillai, Lal, Sumesh Moor
- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

AARKKARIYAM
(Malayalam)
Shirley and Roy, in the middle of an impending Covid lockdown and a personal financial crisis, leave their Mumbai home for Shirley's home in Pala where her father Ittyavira stays. Roy soon finds that her home is not what he thought it is.
Cast: Sharafudden, Biju Menon, Parvathy Thiruvothu, Saiju Kurup
- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

All the streaming apps can be accessed on smartphones and smart TVs with Internet connection.

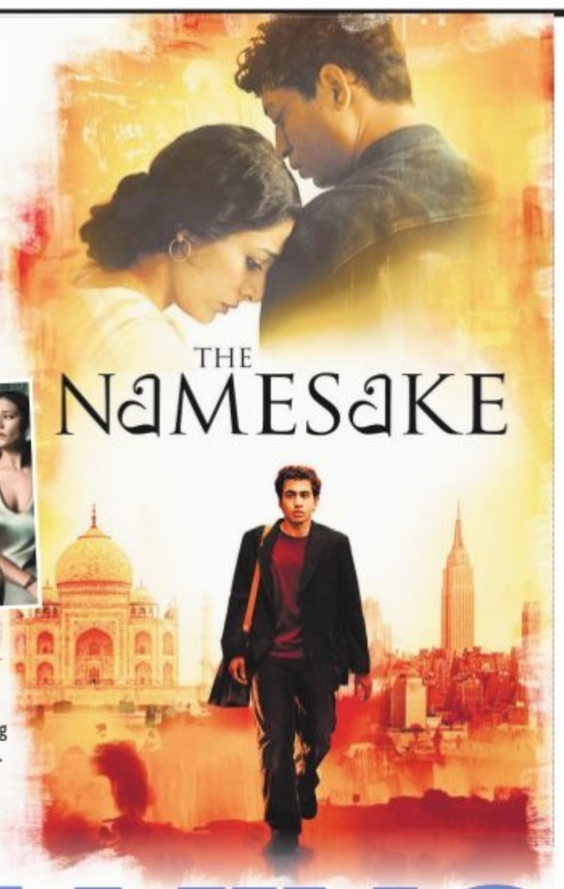
NOVEMBER STORY
(Tamil, series)
A celebrated crime novelist suffering from Alzheimer's is found at a murder scene with no memory of what happened. Now it is up to his daughter to save him.
Cast: Tamannaah, GM Kumar, Pasupathy, Namita Krishnamurthy
- Watch on: Disney+Hotstar

VARANE AVASHYAMUND
(Malayalam)
Neena, a french tutor and single mother, lives with her daughter who is trying to find a groom for herself. Soon, their lives change when a retired army major and a young man move into their building.
Cast: Dulquer Salmaan, Kalyani Priyadarshan, Shobhana, Suresh Gopi
- Watch on: Netflix

FOREIGN

THE NAMESAKE
(English)
Ashima and Ashoke, immigrant Bengali parents, try to adjust to life in America, while Gogol, their son, tries to find his identity and choose between the two worlds.
Cast: Kal Penn, Irrfan Khan, Tabu
- Watch on: Disney+Hotstar

WHO KILLED SARA?
(Spanish, series)
After being framed for his sister's murder, Alex is hell-bent on exacting revenge and finding the real culprit.
Cast: Carolina Miranda, Manolo Cardona, Ela Velden, Eugenio Siller
- Watch on: Netflix



ANOTHER ROUND (Danish)
Four high school teachers consume alcohol on a daily basis to see how it affects their social and professional lives.
Cast: Mads Mikkelsen, Magnus Millang, Maria Bonnevie, Thomas Bo Larsen
- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA (English)
Andy, a young graduate aspiring to be a journalist, comes to New York and becomes an assistant to one of the city's biggest magazine editors, the ruthless and cynical Miranda Priestly.
Cast: Anne Hathaway, Meryl Streep, Emily Blunt, Stanley Tucci
- Watch on: Disney+Hotstar

SUBSCRIPTION

Prime Video: ₹ 129 per month
Disney+Hotstar: ₹ 399 per year
Netflix: ₹ 199 per month

RUBINATIONS
RUBI CHAKRAVARTI
Writer, actor and funny girl

THE ART OF KINTSUGI

I am perhaps old school, and was brought up in an old school manner with an old school education. Even though my 'epoch erasing' detractors would like to snigger that, perhaps I belong to the Jurassic age rather than the age of Aquarius, I would like to point out that by old school I mean 'genteel' and not crass! Though people call me upfront and forthright I would like to mention that I baulk at hurting feelings and bandying about names freely. Forthright and truthful I am but that is because there's too much effort one has to put in to lie and frankly, it's not worth it.

So today I am going to be frank and forthright with my readers.

I am not doing very well. I am withdrawn, moody and unhappy most of the time. I am quite done with trying to find the positives (oh boy! Now even 'being positive' is a scary word) and fighting off the tides of despondency, despair and hopelessness. My relationships are fractured, and my emotional stronghold is crumbling. I rely on myself more and more and along with an unfamiliar world I find myself in an unfamiliar mindscape. I have inadvertently opened a door into the twilight zone. I feel like Alice in Wonderland where sometimes I'm too big and sometimes too small for a place. My world is teeming with madness and the unfamiliar. Sometimes I feel claustrophobic.

But I am a bright and ruminating individual who thinks things through. Perhaps this is the one quality that, as the French aptly put it, doesn't allow my mind 'Un moment calme dans le temps', (a quiet moment in time). If I am to believe the WhatsApp degree in medicine, being afflicted by Cardi-V has severe repercussions on the already vulnerable parts of one's body. So a mildly diabetic person's sugar may go through the roof, a mild heart condition may be accentuated etc. This in local parlance is called the 'Corona Fracture' and may be applied to one's state of mind, relationships and well-being.

My two best friends in the world, two women whom I have known since school and after, are not doing well. I haven't laid eyes on them for over a year and only the universe knows if I ever can. I think of all the wasted time meeting people that didn't and still don't matter, sharing my aura and energy when I knew I only had to turn my back to have them scatter and chatter... and now I'm trapped in this world where I erase mental pictures of people who went away. We all make plans. I am a mother of adults and have never expected them to be under my wing forever. I prepared them for flight but I imagined myself in that picture... visiting them wherever they were situated in the world, sharing time filled with love and laughter, exchanging stories of work and play... where I would have my world and they theirs.

The author with her friends and family

This forced proximity filled with fears, financial uncertainties, death and sickness has brought relationship fractures to the forefront. A partner, who has been a part of my life forever, someone I took on the world for, and now, we don't exchange four civil sentences... my bonhomie has turned to bitterness while his stoic comforting silence has turned to hostility. Fractures that will leave us with a permanent limp or nothing at all.

Nowadays, the only conversation (on WhatsApp) the family from different corners of the world signs up for, is to exchange health bulletins on my still desperately sick nephew. We are all fractured but alive.

There will always be a 'lie' in believe,

An 'over' in lover
An 'end' in friends and
And an 'if' in life.

Maybe we should try the Japanese art of mending fractures with gold... thereby enhancing the beauty of the broken.

The art of Kintsugi... can it save us?

STACK IT UP

Breakfast, lunch or dinner - pancakes are the perfect dish for any time of the day. Here are three types of the dish you can make to satisfy every craving and mood

Potato Pancakes with Poached Eggs & Hollandaise Sauce

Ingredients

- Potatoes - 6 medium size
- Garlic - 6 cloves, minced
- Spinach - 1 bunch
- All purpose flour - 3 tbsp
- Spring onion - 2 tbsp
- Salt and pepper - as per taste
- Olive oil - 2 tbsp

For Hollandaise Sauce

- Egg yolk - 2
- Lemon - ½
- Hot sauce - ½ teaspoon
- Dijon mustard - ½ teaspoon
- Butter - 5 tbsp

METHOD

- Grate the potatoes. Let it rest for 10 minutes. Remove excess water by squeezing.
- Heat olive oil in a pan over medium heat and add the garlic. Cook for 30 seconds and stir before adding the spinach. Add salt and cook for a few minutes, until wilted, then remove from heat. Set aside.
- In a bowl, mix the grated potatoes, spinach, flour, spring onions, salt and pepper. Stir together until completely integrated. If you want to add some cheese, now is the time to do it.
- Heat a few tablespoons of oil in a frying pan over medium heat. Once hot, shape the mixed batter into palm-sized pancakes. Cook until golden on one side, then flip, and cook until golden on the other side.
- While the pancakes are cooking, you can either poach or fry your eggs.
- For the sauce: In a blender, add two egg yolks, the juice of half a lemon, half tsp of dijon mustard, half tsp of hot sauce. Blend to combine for 10 seconds. Melt 4-5 tablespoons of butter. While everything is mixing in the blender, slowly add hot butter to the mixture until it forms a creamy sauce.
- When all of the pancakes are cooked, top with eggs and hollandaise sauce, garnish with green onions. Serve warm.

- Anamika Nambiar (@themindfulwhisker on Instagram)

5-Minute Mini Pancakes

Ingredients

- Egg - 1
- Sugar - 3 tbsp
- Vanilla Essence - 1 tbsp
- Oil - 2 tbsp
- Milk - 1/2 cup
- Flour - 1 cup
- Baking powder - 1 tsp
- Salt - 1/4 tsp

METHOD

- In a bowl add in the egg, sugar and vanilla. Combine the mixture using a whisk until the sugar dissolves.
- Add in the oil and milk and combine well.
- Sift together the flour, baking powder and salt.
- Fold in the dry ingredients into the wet ingredients.
- Pour the pancake batter into a squeeze bottle or use a teaspoon to scoop it out.
- Heat up a non-stick pan over medium low heat.
- Now brush a thin layer of butter on your pan and squeeze out mini pancakes.
- Cook them for a minute on each side until they are golden.
- Serve it with seasonal fruit, maple syrup or with toppings of your choice and enjoy.

- Sabitha S (@thewhisktaker.in on Instagram)

SCALLION PANCAKES

Ingredients

- Plain flour - 2 cups plus more for rolling out the pancakes
- Salt - 1/2 tsp
- Boiling water - 3/4 - 1 cup
- Sesame oil - 1 tbsp
- Thinly cut scallion (green parts) - 1 cup
- Oil - 1/4 cup

For dipping sauce

- Soy sauce - 1/3 cup
- Vinegar - 2 tbsp
- Brown sugar - 1 tbsp
- Scallion - 1 tbsp
- Red pepper flakes - 1/2 tsp

METHOD

- Mix the flour, salt, and ¾ cup of boiling water. Continue kneading till the dough comes together. You might have to add more boiling water, 1 tbsp at a time, until the dough forms.
- Lightly flour your work surface then turn out the dough. Turn it into a ball, cover with a damp towel, and let it rest at room temperature for 30 minutes.
- Divide the dough into 4 equal pieces. Working with one piece of dough at a time (and keeping the remaining pieces covered with a damp towel), roll it out into a 8-inch circle. Brush it lightly with sesame oil and sprinkle generously with scallions.
- Roll the dough up into a log then shape it into a coil, tucking the end under the bottom of the coil. Flatten the coil slightly with your hand then roll it out again into a 7-inch circle.
- Set the pancake aside under the damp cloth and repeat rolling the remaining pieces of dough.
- Add 1 tbsp oil to a pan over medium-low heat. Once the oil is hot, add one pancake and cook it, turning frequently, until it is golden brown and crispy on both sides, about 5 minutes total.
- Cut the scallion pancakes into wedges and serve them with the dipping sauce.
- For the dipping sauce: In a small bowl, whisk together the soy sauce, vinegar, brown sugar, scallions and red pepper flakes.

- Anushree and Archana Kanoria (@doughremi_blr on Instagram)

NUGGETS

Coffee brand launches cappuccino machine

Coffeeza's new 'Lattisso One-Touch' is a capsule coffee machine that is engineered and manufactured in Italy. It is specially designed with an attached milk frother to brew the perfect one-touch cappuccino easily at home. Each Coffeeza capsule contains the exact quantity of coffee grounds for one-serving. Café-style coffee is extracted by the machine by forcing nearly boiling water through the coffee grounds under high pressure. Check the brand website for the machine, which is priced at ₹26,999.

Taco masterclass to be held

Chef Vikas Seth will host a masterclass this Sunday at 4.30 pm on PitchIn.club. He will teach participants how to make homemade BBQ tacos in three different variations - broccoli, cauliflower and chicken. He will also make use of pantry-friendly alternatives, keeping in mind the current situation. Pitchin.club is a platform where one can volunteer their time to host one on one sessions to raise funds for their preferred charity. To book a slot, one must donate to chef's preferred charity. The minimum donation for this class is ₹2,000.

Happy hours at home

AMAN DUA

While it may have originated out of practicality, brunch now usually trends on Sundays and weekends as a lazy social gathering where a late breakfast merges into lunch and goes on till around 4 or 5 pm. Naturally, the vast array of food is accompanied by a variety of beverages and cocktails since there is time on hand, and no one has to get back to work. As a result, brunch is often used as a platform to experiment with beverages, and while classic and champagne-based cocktails were initially the mainstay, we now see a whole range of cocktails specially designed for brunch in a lot of places. I remember that in the first brunch place I worked at as a bartender, we used to cater to around 600 people every Sunday. This was a great experience, and we had an extensive list of house-designed cocktails in addition to the popular Pina Coladas and Bloody Marys.

Brunch was a great stage for an outlet to showcase their F&B skills to the guests, but unfortunately, the pandemic has put brakes on this. Of course, necessity is the mother of invention, and many people are indulging in virtual brunches where they are connecting with their friends and family over an online platform, while enjoying food, drinks and music. While food is easily ordered from a favourite restaurant, this is an ideal opportunity to experiment with 'house cocktails'. Some brunch suggestions for the in-house bartender:

1. Have adequate stocks of your preferred spirits.
2. Keep citrus and fresh fruits along with herbs.
3. Have good glassware, like highball, old fashioned, or wine glasses. Nothing like enjoying your cocktails in the correct glassware.
4. Make sure you set enough ice.
5. Have adequate mixers like soda, tonic, etc on hand.
6. Have basic bar tools like a jigger, shaker and strainer, etc at home.

(The author is the beverage programmer at Raahi Neo Kitchen & Bar)

COCKTAILS TO TRY

Option 1

- Gin - 60 ml
- Fresh lime juice - 10 ml
- Basil syrup - 30 ml (use 30 gm basil with 1 litre water and 400 gm sugar, blend and fine strain)
- Tonic water - 90 ml.
- Serve in a highball glass, garnish with basil leaves.

Option 2

- Vodka - 60 ml
- Fresh watermelon - 5 to 6 medium-size chunks
- Fresh lemon - 4 to 5 moon cut.
- Castor sugar - 1 tsp
- Muddle and serve with cracked ice and watermelon slice in an old fashioned glass.

Option 3

- Whiskey - 60 ml
- Fresh ginger - 5 to 6 juliennes
- Caramel syrup - 15ml
- Angostura bitters - 2 dashes
- Top with soda and serve in a highball glass full of ice. Garnish with lemon moon.

Official teaser of *777 Charlie* to be unveiled on Rakshit Shetty's birthday

Director Kiranraj is working on the teaser which will be out in five languages

Rakshit Shetty

CE FEATURES

The makers of pan-India film *777 Charlie* will unveil an official teaser on Rakshit Shetty's birthday, which falls on June 6. Director Kiranraj K, who is working on the teaser, told *CE* that it will be out in five languages — Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, and Hindi. One of the most anticipated films, this adventure drama-comedy features a couple of Labradors. The film stars Sangeetha Sringeri in the female lead, along with Raj B Shetty and Danish Sait in prominent characters. It also marks the Kannada debut of Bobby Simha who will be seen in a pivotal role.

The team's last schedule concluded in Kashmir, and they are left with just two days of patchwork, mostly end credits. This will be done as soon the entertainment industry opens. Meanwhile, an update from the *777 Charlie* team are ready with the first copy of the Kannada version, and the post-production in the other languages is currently in progress. The film is produced by G S Gupta under the banner Paramvah Studios, and they are looking at a 2021 release. The team, which is in talks with various distribution channels, is hopeful for a December release. *777 Chalie's* music and cinematography are handled by Nobin Paul and Aravind Kashyap, respectively.

KRISHNA & RACHITA RAM'S ROMANTIC DRAMA TITLED *LOVE ME OR HATE ME*

Deepak Gangadhar, who is making his directorial debut, has picked a line from Dr Rajkumar's classic song

A SHARADHAA

DEEPAK Gangadhar's directorial debut starring Krishna and Rachita Ram has been titled *Love Me or Hate Me*. It was launched on Friday. Interestingly, this is the first line from the classic and evergreen song of Dr Rajkumar's film *Shankar Guru*, which has been considered as a name for this romantic drama. A love story, first-time director Deepak says the idea of using this popular line was because it suited the plot. The story moves between two timelines — the present and a flashback against a college backdrop placed in 2015.

Deepak, who has previously worked in Thoogudeepa Productions as an associate director and a film distributor, is now foraying into direction and will be bringing together Krishna and Rachita for the first time on the silver screen. Jointly produced by Madan Gangadhar and Nandish, the initial plan was to begin the project in April. "We are ready with the script and will roll out the project as soon as the government unlocks the city, and we are given permission to shoot," says Deepak.

Apart from the leads, the director is finalising the star cast, and is in talks with actors, Sadhu Kokila and Chikkanna for prominent roles. However, they are yet to sign on the dotted line. "We are also scouting for the second lead heroine for which we are scouting a fresh face," says Deepak, adding, "The film will have Sridhar V Sambhram scoring the music, while the rest of the technicians are yet to come on board." Krishna is currently committed to *Love Mocktail 2*, Nagashekar's *Shrikrishna@gmail.com*, Deepak Aras's *Sugar Factory*, and Nagendra Prasad's project in Kannada. Prior to the lockdown, Rachita was juggling shooting for Khadar Kumar's *Veeram* and *Love You Rachchu* with Ajai Rao.

We are ready with the script and will roll out the project as soon as the government unlocks the city, and we are given permission to shoot

– **Deepak, director**

Rachita Ram

Krishna

FRIENDS: THE REUNION

Director: Ben Winston

Cast: David Schwimmer, Lisa Kudrow, Jennifer Aniston, Courtney Cox, Matt Le Blanc, Matthew Perry

Streaming on: ZEE5

SUDHIR SRINIVASAN

THIS MUCH-AWAITED REUNION IS A MOVING ODE TO NOSTALGIA

As I suppose is true of most couples in the world, my partner and I watch a lot of television together. A diet of new content can get quite exhausting and impossible to get through, without the assuaging effects of what I like to call 'comfort content'—which *F.R.I.E.N.D.S* has been for us, for years now. It's the content equivalent of home. *F.R.I.E.N.D.S* has been a warm blanket I have sought comfort under, and I suppose this is true for millions across the world, who have been clamouring for a new *F.R.I.E.N.D.S* experience for decades now. Now, after innumerable rumours and false alarms, we finally have the Reunion special. It's not a scripted episode though, and the actors pretty much play themselves across this hour-and-a-half special. And yet, there is much sentiment and joy to be felt.

Its structure is drawn, it seems, from the elements that comprise a typical *F.R.I.E.N.D.S* episode. There's an emotional core on which everything is mounted—in this case, the rarity of the union of the six primary cast members. The title credits play to that now-legendary song, and quite movingly, utilises snapshots from this special. There are all those celebrity cameos that populated the F.R.I.E.N.D.S universe. In this special, we see various celebrities including David Beckham, Justin Bieber, Cara Delevingne, and Lady Gaga, with the latter joining Lisa Kudrow for a special rendition of 'Smelly Cat', and making a beautiful point concerning the importance of Phoebe's character. Supporting characters include Gunther, Jill, Heckles, and the Geller parents.

There's plenty of unexpected comedy, including a Ross-like monologue when David Schwimmer goes on a rant about the difficulty of working with Marcel, the monkey. There's even romance in the form of subtle, gentle confessions from Schwimmer and Aniston about being attracted to each other during shooting. It's impossible not to have the heart swell in emotion when the two actors read lines from the scene that leads to their first kiss in the show (The One Where Ross Finds Out). The editing often beautifully, economically, utilises footage from the series to great effect. Much like your average *F.R.I.E.N.D.S* episode, this special also shuffles between its settings. One minute, you are in that now-mythical apartment, as the actors enact that famous quiz (from The One with the Embryos). The next, you are at the fountain, the background for the opening credits, as host James Corden tries to eke out an interesting anecdote or two. Pretty soon, you are at the coffee shop, as the actors exchange anecdotes. The special is smart to protect itself from monotony of setting.

When the show opens to David Schwimmer getting overwhelmed at the sight of the set, on some level, you experience this too. It's a rush to see all six actors form a whole again; to see them all, in their own unique ways, respond to being together again on the sets that turned them from anonymous actors to household names.

While the actors don't perform new material in this special, we do see them enact prominent moments from the show. Matt Le Blanc and Matthew Perry turn back time when they lean back on their barcaloungers and go, "Ahhh!" The famous quiz scene, of course, is re-enacted as well, and when Schwimmer poses new questions, I found myself knowing more about the characters than the cast members seemed to. It's, of course, only natural. Matt Le Blanc confesses later in the special that he cannot stand to watch himself on television, as it's impossible for him to suspend disbelief. This comes as a revelation even to the other cast members with whom he spent the better part of ten years. Another revelation comes when Matthew Perry speaks of the insecurity he remembers feeling when his jokes did not meet with resounding approval from the live audience. These honest admissions go a long way in elevating the overall experience—and yes, perhaps there should have been more of this, given the conversation format employed for much of this special.

RATING 3.5/5

We do get a peek into their world and what it must have been like for them to cope with early fame and global adulation. Matthew Perry, for one, has spoken in many interviews over the years of how fame and money failed to "accomplish anything". Schwimmer notes that this rare, common experience between them served to strengthen their togetherness, as they could not rely on family or friends to understand it. Again, I wish the show had dug deeper into these spaces and allowed for more insight into the vulnerabilities of these global icons. I, for one, would have loved to know how the six deal with their youth immortalised on screen, even as they age and wither, like all of us. Matt Le Blanc makes a self-deprecating joke about his weight. Matthew Perry's speech sounds slurred. Jennifer Aniston, Courtney Cox and David Schwimmer all seem to be burdened by the weight of many decades of life in this world—till, of course, they read lines and the artiste within them explodes with energy. It's perhaps Lisa Kudrow who truly turns back the clock with her "infectious, loud laughter", as Courtney Cox says.

However, the special does seem to have missed a trick by not addressing the strong criticism levied against this series over the years, concerning how its many jokes punch down on vulnerable groups. Do the writers feel differently today? How do the stars respond to such retrospective criticism? Was it director Ben Winston, in opting to replicate the F.R.I.E.N.D.S experience, feeling compelled to stay away from such topics? I did enjoy some lovely directorial touches in this special, including clever segues in between seemingly unrelated segments. For instance, Corden engaging the six actors over laughter decibel levels serves as a smooth lead to the arrival of Maggie Wheeler (who played Janice).

On the whole, while it is certainly not flawless, this reunion does feel like it fulfils its evidently difficult job of satiating the average *F.R.I.E.N.D.S* fan. I particularly enjoyed that the special serves as a wistful commentary on the fleeting nature of time and relationships, even while paying homage to the bittersweet feeling of nostalgia. In speaking about the inspiration behind the creation of this show, Marta Kauffman says, "The series is about that time of your life when friends are family." This wise observation hits you like a punch to the gut and stands testament to the universality of this beloved series and its ability to heal and comfort.

At the very end, as we are shown precious bloopers from the show, we see the six actors fail to control their tears after shooting the final episode (The One Where They Say Goodbye), much like, I suppose, 50 million fans did when it aired on May 6, 2004. Lisa Kudrow is fighting tears but begins laughing, when one of the *F.R.I.E.N.D.S* makes a funny remark. Her tears concern the tenuous grasp we hold over time, while her laughter concerns the joy contained in its fleeting moments. It's a fitting image and an accurate representation of my own response to this special.

H/34 Pallavi Talkies looks at OTT route

The makers released the first song of the film on Thursday

CE FEATURES

H/34 Pallavi Talkies has been in the making for a long time now. And once again they are back in the news. The film, starring Tilak Shekar in the lead, had debutant director Srinivas Chikkanna popularly known as Seeni releasing the first song from the film on May 27. The director tells us that the film is all set to go in for an OTT release, and the song release was the first step to reach out to the audience. "It is like reintroducing our film to viewers. The official trailer will be launched in the next 10 days," says the director.

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Srinivas Chikkanna, director

The film's plot is based on a true incident. The storyline was triggered when the director went to watch *The Conjuring* at Urvashi Theatre in 2013. "We have worked out the screenplay, which has a horror element. It's more of a psycho thriller, for which we have taken influences of some scary incidents taking place around the world," he says.

Ask the director about the comparisons made between his film and *Krishna Talkies*. Does the latter hold the same plot? "The matter came to my notice when the makers of *Krishna Talkies* took forward the project. I don't want to debate about it now. I consider this bad luck, because I began work on the film seven years ago and they started the project much later. Someone leaked my plot and my one-liner. The makers of *Krishna Talkies* were fortunate to release it before me. Though the storyline seems similar, the screenplay of *H/34 Pallavi Talkies* is different," explains Srinivas Chikkanna, who is happy that his film is finally seeing the light of day. He is gearing up to release it on a popular streaming channel. "I will cater to viewers who enjoy watching the horror genre, " he adds.

The film, produced by Manjunath K and Ravikiran M Gowda under the banner Kalabhairava Arts, has music scored by Ajaneesh B Lokanath, and cinematography handled by Manohar Joshi. The star cast also comprises Yagna Shetty, Achyuth Kumar, Avinash, Sudha Belawadi, Padmaja Rao, and Amrutha.

A still from *H/34 Pallavi Talkies*